

Exports to come from certified herds

Beef war ends as Gummer yields on BSE

By MICHAEL HORNSBY IN BRUSSELS AND PHILIP WEBSTER

FRANCE, West Germany and Italy yesterday lifted their bans on British beef, removing the threat of a trade war that had been hanging over the Community for the past week.

In return, Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, reluctantly yielded to pressure for tougher health controls to reassure other member states that everything was being done to protect their consumers against any risk from the "mad cow" disease that is killing 250 British cattle a week.

Mr Gummer said the outcome was much better than had seemed likely at one stage during 24 hours of negotiations by EC agriculture ministers. "We were faced with a series of quite impossible and quite outrageous proposals which had nothing to do with science and everything to do with the protection of other people's trading interests," he told a press conference.

The Irish Agriculture Minister, Mr Michael O'Kennedy, who stitched the compromise together in a series of bilateral meetings, said that if agreement had not been reached, "we would have had a very serious crisis indeed".

The most serious restriction accepted by Mr Gummer was that all beef carcasses exported to the rest of the EC must be certified as coming from herds free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Last November, he rejected as unscientific and illegal a West German call for such certification.

But yesterday he said a unilateral demand by the West Germans could not be compared to "an arrangement for the whole Community".

About 91,000 tonnes of the 112,000 tonnes of British beef exported to the rest of the EC last year consisted of bone-in carcass meat, of which about 6,000 tonnes came from herds that had had a case of BSE. That meat could not now be exported to EC countries.

Britain also agreed to certify that all exports of boneless beef have been stripped of the offals and other tissues thought to harbour BSE, and that any live cattle exported to the EC are under six months old, at which age they are considered too young to have developed the disease. That requirement merely reinforces existing measures.

Mr Gummer wanted the export ban limited to the carcasses of animals born to infected cows, but yesterday he maintained that the agreement would "extend to our customers abroad some of the protection we give to our customers at home". Offal and nervous tissue prone to harbour the BSE agent is removed from beef for home consumption but not from carcasses for export.

Mr Gummer could, however, face the accusation that foreigners are better protected than Britons because the latter are not guaranteed that their beef comes from BSE-free herds. The EC's precautionary measures could reinforce demands for tougher measures at home.

Dr David Clark, Labour's food spokesman, said in the Commons: "This latest agreement must be seen merely as a breathing space. Unless we show the rest of the world that we are determined to eradicate BSE from our cattle herd, it is only a matter of time before we find ourselves in quarantine again."

He called on the Government to urge the EC to establish a committee of medical experts to complement that of veterinarians to look into human aspects of BSE, introduce random sampling to judge the extent of the disease, cull all calves of infected cows, introduce tagging of cows and herd movement books to allow individual animals to be traced, and offer all bona-fide scientists facilities to study BSE.

The eight days the ban was in force in France are estimated to have cost some £4 million in lost earnings.

France accounting for half of Britain's beef and cattle exports. West Germany and Italy are much smaller markets and their restrictions would not have added greatly to the overall cost. Conservative MPs last night called for compensation for British farmers. Mr Roger Knapman, MP for Stroud, said in the Commons the French and Germans should pay: "Or are we to have partners who want all the privileges of free trade, but none of the obligations?"

The Meat and Livestock Commission was disappointed that controls had been imposed on beef that had been declared safe by the EC's top veterinary scientists, but the National Farmers' Union welcomed the agreement as averting a damaging trade war.

M Henri Nallet, the French Agriculture Minister who imposed the ban May 30, said he was satisfied with the agreement. "There are no winners and losers. Only the Community spirit is the winner." Extra precautions had been necessary because BSE was an "ill-understood and very dangerous disease" that had caused widespread anxiety among continental farmers and near-panic among British consumers.

French officials yesterday said that no case had of BSE had yet been detected in the French cattle herd. They were responding to the claims of a Greek veterinary surgeon, Mr Georges Mezalas, who suggested in a report to the European Parliament that BSE existed in France but was not being reported.

Mr Mezalas accepted yesterday that no case of BSE had been detected in France, but added: "It remains the case that in countries where there is no full compensation for the slaughter of infected animals, cases of the illness may go unreported. It cannot be assumed that in such countries the disease is absent."

The European Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr Raymond MacSharry, said the Commission would investigate the processes used to manufacture animal protein for cattle feed. Such feed, containing the ground-up remains of scrapie-infected sheep, is thought to have caused the BSE outbreak in Britain. It is now banned in Britain, but only The Netherlands has introduced a similar restriction.

Parliament, page 7
Leading article, page 15
Political sketch, page 24

Major links date for ERM to inflation

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MR JOHN Major yesterday renewed speculation about early British entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism when he said: "The balance of advantage is clearly to enter the ERM and, in due course, that is surely what we shall do."

Mr John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, asked Mr Major for a "direct answer" on how far inflation would have to fall. Mr Major replied: "It will be assessed on the approximate rate of inflation which means it will not be on the retail price index."

Parliament, page 7

Italy's strikers make the most of the Cup

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN ROME

ITALIANS pausing over their cappuccino to lament the lack of a striker to replace the legendary Paolo Rossi might today be casting a longing glance at their national museums for there, among the paintings and statuary that have enthralled international art lovers for centuries, are strikers a-plenty.

Not that Titian is about to fill that niggling gap alongside Viali, Botticelli, Tintoretto and Raphael will not be boosting the national team as the World Cup gets underway today, for the strikers in museums throughout Italy have just one goal in mind - more money.

A suspicious soul, of course, might conclude that some workers are taking industrial action merely to watch the feast of world-class football. Not so - the museum workers have been demanding

more money and more staff for weeks. Now, however, with the eyes of the world on Italy, they are determined to seize the opportunity to make the most of their grievances, all to the considerable consternation of President Cossiga.

The President visited Florence yesterday to unveil the frescoes of Masolino and Masaccio in the Brancacci Chapel in the Church of Santa Maria del Carmine after nine years of restoration which has included the removal of leaves strategically added to Adam and Eve by earlier, more puritanical restorers.

Despite the best efforts of the Government to keep the museums open during the World Cup, when the gates of Milan's San Siro stadium open this afternoon for the tournament's opening game between Argentina and Cameroon, the doors of the Brera will be firmly shut.

And the fairer-sex partners of football supporters frustrated in their plans to savour Italy's feast of culture could encounter difficulty if they decide instead to go shopping and find themselves short of lira. The banks, too, are threatening to close.

Getting to the match might also be a little trickier than expected, since urban transport workers are to strike today and tomorrow and next weekend. Railway strikes have been banned by a special emergency law, but there remains a threat of wildcat action.

The latest group to get in on the World Cup publicity act is the tobaccoists' association, which is threatening to close shops on three days in the next fortnight. How will chain-smoking managers get through their matches?

World Cup news, pages 43, 46



TV set: Three badgers which have become television stars in a pioneering series of live broadcasts using special high-technology cameras at a secret location in the Essex countryside. Puzzle for naturalists, page 24

Swindon relegated to third division

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SWINDON Town were last night demoted to the third division, only 10 days after clinching first division football for the first time in the club's history, for making illegal payments to players.

The decision by the Football League will have serious ramifications for the West Country club at the end of a traumatic year. The announcement, which "devastated" Swindon officials, was made by Mr David Dent, the League secretary, after eight hours of inquiry by a three-man commission at Villa Park, Birmingham.

Mr Gary Herbert, the club chairman, pleaded guilty on behalf of Swindon to 35 of the 36 charges brought by the League of making irregular payments to eight specific players going back to 1985.

In addition to being relegated, Swindon were also ordered to pay compensation figures to six clubs deemed to have been affected by the illegal payments. Nine of the players concerned in the illegality are currently with the club.

The league, in a mood to show little mercy, said one effect of the payments was to understate the players' earnings which in turn may have led the League appeals committee to award a depressed figure when assessing compensation to be paid when these players were transferred.

The appeals committee will meet to assess the further compensation Swindon have to pay to these clubs.

Swindon directors were severely censured and reminded of their responsibilities running a league club.

Details, page 48

Thatcher unveils her new vision of Nato

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND MICHAEL EVANS

MRS Thatcher called yesterday for a historic recasting of the work of Nato from preventing war to building peace. She urged a more political role for the Alliance and the equipping of Nato to face threats from areas outside Europe, such as the Middle East.

The speech to Nato foreign ministers in Turnberry, Scotland, designed to set the agenda for next month's Nato summit in London, marked significant new benchmarks in her own approach to European security. She acknowledged that Nato no longer had a clear frontline; signalled her readiness for reductions in British forces stationed in Germany, and applauded publicly for the first time President Bush's decision to terminate work on the successor to the Lance ground-launched missile.

In another important development at Turnberry, Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, told the foreign ministers that Moscow had suddenly become convinced it can reach an agreement with

Nato over the security status of a unified Germany. Since the Washington summit there had been "a change in spirit" within the Soviet leadership towards the crucial German question, he said.

According to a senior US official, Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, told Mr Baker that he was "impressed" by the efforts being made by the West to find a formula on Germany that would meet Moscow's security interests. Although Moscow had not yet shifted from its position of opposing Nato membership for a unified Germany, Mr Shevardnadze had given a clear impression that an agreement was now much more likely.

In Moscow, meanwhile, at the end of a one-day meeting of Warsaw Pact members, President Gorbachev yesterday signalled the end of the Pact in its present form by offering "radical reforms" and proposing joint Nato-Warsaw Pact bodies to set the seal on the end of the Cold War following the disintegration of communist rule in Eastern

Europe. The declaration did not address the problem of a unified Germany directly, but Mr Yuri Kvitsinsky, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, said that nobody had proposed that a unified Germany should belong to Nato, as the West was demanding.

In Turnberry, Mrs Thatcher urged a revival of President Kennedy's "declaration of interdependence" across the Atlantic.

To make East European countries feel more secure and to enable the Soviet Union to come to terms with Nato's continued existence, Mrs Thatcher called for the development of a new security architecture.

Soviet hopes, page 8
William Waldegrave, page 14

De Klerk calls off emergency and frees prisoners

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG AND PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

PRESIDENT de Klerk yesterday announced the lifting of the four-year-old state of emergency in most of South Africa, and the release of 48 political prisoners to pave the way for negotiations on constitutional reforms.

In a speech to Parliament in Cape Town, Mr de Klerk made a stern appeal to the African National Congress to "stop vacillating" and to state unequivocally where it stood on key issues. In particular, he called on Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, to explain his endorsement of organised violence against selected targets. In Paris, Mr Mandela greeted Mr de Klerk's decision, but insisted that the West must continue to maintain economic sanctions against Pretoria.

"It represents a victory for the people of South Africa, white and black," he said at the end of an official lunch hosted by President Mitterrand in the Elysee Palace. However, Mr Mandela was critical of the decision to exclude Natal - which has been the scene of murderous conflict between rival black organizations - observing this "serves no useful purpose".

Mr de Klerk, in ending the state of emergency and releasing ANC members from jail, addressed the organization's primary conditions for beginning negotiations on a post-apartheid constitution. He did so despite a continuing high level of political violence, and a severe setback for the ruling National Party in a Natal by-election which signalled substantial white opposition to his reform policies. The Nationalists retained the Unlazi constituency with a sharply reduced majority, but analysis said a similar voting trend in a general election would sweep the far-right Conservative Party to power.

The President said the reform process had been a bewildering and sometimes frightening experience for many people. But he said: "We cannot stop the world and get off as some people in South Africa would like."

The Government had striven to restore order to the point where the remaining vestiges of violence could be countered with ordinary laws. That point had now been reached, and so the state of emergency would be ended everywhere except Natal at midnight tonight.

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Councils borrow to cover poll tax shortfall and delays

By JAMIE DEITMER

FAR-REACHING reforms of the community charge system will be needed to alleviate the problems local authorities face in collecting it, according to the Association of District Councils.

The rate of revenue collection by the 322 non-metropolitan districts in England and Wales is down by 25 per cent and some areas are experiencing a drop of up to a third, the association says. A straw poll of 100 Tory and Labour council treasurers at its annual meeting this week indicated that many authorities are becoming overwhelmed by the administrative difficulties in introducing the new system of local government

finance. "We will be making representations to the Government for major reforms of the whole community charge system," Mr Roy Thomason, the association's chairman, said. "Without these reforms there will be increasing collection problems. We want to make the community charge more equitable and workable."

Several councils have turned to borrowing to make up the revenue shortfall, the association says. Others are digging in to reserves and losing interest. Both moves are likely to push up poll tax demands in the next financial year.

Several London boroughs which have been capped said yesterday they were pleased with their rate of collection.

Islington, which with 18 other councils is challenging the capping process in the High Court, has collected £42 million so far. By this time under the old rating system it would have collected £6 million.

"With the confusion in people's minds over the capping and the court case, we are quite pleased with the response," a council spokesman said.

"There are a lot of anecdotes about the problems," Mr Mark Pilgrim, the director of finance at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said. "It is all very variable and the rates of collection and numbers paying are open to a number of interpretations."

Although about 25 per cent of people

have so far not paid their community charge in the metropolitan areas, the numbers obliged to contribute to local government finance have risen dramatically.

"A number of authorities just don't have a clear picture, as demands have gone out late because of computer breakdowns and other administrative problems. Also, a lot of people who have not paid so far may well be waiting for a response to rebate applications," Mr Pilgrim said.

Yesterday, Mr Barry Powell, chief revenue officer at Birmingham, said people should not read too much into the city's collection rate. Half the adults in the Birmingham have failed to pay the

poll tax, but more than 200,000 are waiting for rebate applications to be processed or for questions to be answered. "You also have to remember that the Government adjusted the payment of central grants to cover early shortfalls," Mr Powell said. "We are getting grants much earlier this year."

The High Court was urged yesterday to "restore the proper constitutional balance" between central and local government by overturning the decision by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, to charge-cap 21 local authorities.

Mr Alan Newman QC, representing Derbyshire County Council, said the Government's avowed aim in introduc-

ing the poll tax was to strengthen the local accountability of councils. Mr Patten had used his powers to "hack to ribbons" the budgets of the capped councils. It was "a calculated policy of administrative chaos".

Mr Newman's submission came on the third day of an application by 19 capped authorities seeking a judicial review of Mr Patten's use of the 1988 Local Government Finance Act to impose spending cuts. Mr John Laws, representing Mr Patten, said the High Court was being asked to decide government policy. He said Mr Patten had acted lawfully to protect charge-payers and reduce local authority expenditure. The hearing continues today.

Airline rebuts MPs' claim that planes are unsafe

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways and the Civil Aviation Authority last night rejected allegations from Labour MPs that they were "playing a dangerous game" with passengers' lives by allowing them to fly on aircraft which had not been properly maintained.

Twenty-seven MPs, led by Mr Dennis Skinner, Mr Tony Benn and Mr David Nellist, had tabled a motion alleging "the consequence of the Civil Aviation Authority with British Airways in allowing aircraft to fly in an unsafe condition because of non-regular personnel signing approvals and certificates after repair and maintenance".

As Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, responded to questions about next week's business Mr Skinner brandished a long list of defects in aircraft which, he claimed, had been ignored since the strike by 7,000 engineering workers at Heathrow over 12-hour shifts began a week ago.

Afterwards Mr Skinner said: "You cannot have 7,000 engineers and their assistants on strike and their jobs done by a handful of management. Some of these people have never been on strike before but they are now genuinely worried about safety and fear that something awful is going to happen before BA pulls off its threat and gets back to negotiations."

Last night, British Airways dismissed the allegations as "nonsense and utter rubbish".

Maintenance was carried out in full compliance with the strict laws governing aircraft safety, it said, and if any engineer signed an aircraft as fit to fly when it was not he would not only be putting his job at risk but could also face criminal prosecution. "We are maintaining our aircraft to our own extremely high standards and are regularly inspected by the CAA," the airline said.

The Civil Aviation Au-

thority said that it had drafted in two more surveyors, highly qualified senior engineers who are used to check on airline engineers, to boost the 12 who normally work at Heathrow. "We are satisfied checks are being carried out correctly," the authority said.

Many of the maintenance problems referred to by Mr Skinner and Mr Nellist were minor technical ones which occur regularly on all flights, are logged and either put right or given special dispensations to enable the aircraft to continue to fly.

As pilots approach Heathrow they radio ahead with details of any technical problems they may have encountered during the flight so that the engineers on the ground can have any spares standing by for instant attention. The striking engineers had been listening in to these reports and made them available to the MPs.

British Airways has its own Dispatch Deviation Manual, which lists all the defects which are technically and legally permissible to be carried on aircraft in safety. Normally an engineer can sign off an aircraft with such a defect automatically but 18 months ago the company decided, unprompted by any safety body, to cut such allowable defects to the minimum and ordered that any defect had first to be given a dispensation from a senior engineer. Before the aircraft took off again the captain is told of the defect and must be happy to fly with it.

One such defect, which affected a Boeing 747 last Sunday, involved a reported problem in the fire detection loop around an engine. Senior Flight Engineer Roger Stafford gave a dispensation to enable the aircraft to continue in service until the problem could be solved.

Parliament, page 7

Hospitals 'should improve services'

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ALL hospitals will be expected to demonstrate significant improvements in patient services from April next year, Mr Peter Griffiths, deputy chief executive of the National Health Service told health service managers yesterday.

Although health authorities will not have to produce detailed price costings or sophisticated contracts when reforms are implemented, they will be expected to have made visible progress in improving quality standards.

Speaking at the Institute of

Health Services Management's annual conference in Torquay, Mr Griffiths said: "We are expecting every contract to stipulate something about how the service is to be improved, not in five or 10 years time, but how it is to be improved in the first weeks and months of the reforms."

These could include reducing waiting times for outpatient appointments and reducing the time patients had to wait to see a doctor once they had arrived at hospital.

Opposition rises, page 5



Mr Bruce Newlands pictured before (left) and after a sudden illness which caused him to lose 4½ stone and which he believes was caused by a body-building food supplement he took. The 24-year-old weight-lifter, who became unable to walk, can still not straighten his arms or flex his joints. He collapsed after taking capsules bought at a health food shop for 3½ months.



Dr Kenneth Simpson, who is treating the postman from Guildford, Surrey, believes the capsules were to blame and has written to the Government asking for the compound to be banned. "Physically he is a shadow of his former self, he does not have any muscles on his body and his nerves and reflexes are in a very poor state," he said. Mr Newlands, who refused to take steroids, believing them dangerous, said his decline was terrifying. "I suddenly lost all my strength. From being able to easily pump 90 kilos in a gym I found I could hardly lift an orange. It attacked my nervous system, my immune system, my lungs, heart, liver and kidneys." He is only now learning to walk again.

Millions lost in EC food frauds

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

LOSSES of millions of pounds through the theft, fraud or mislabelling of European Community surplus food stocks held in Britain have been uncovered by the Government's public spending watchdog.

The National Audit Office said fraud and irregularities could be far greater than detected. Its investigation supports the findings of the Luxembourg-based Court of Auditors and the House of Lords EC committee, which said EC fraud in agriculture support payments, some of which might find their way to the Mafia and IRA, could total £6 billion a year.

The audit office called for improvements at the intervention board to make the handling of EC funds and food stocks more efficient. It said: "In the last nine years the intervention board has reported 110 cases of irregularity, of which 100 have been valued at a total of £3.6 million. In 64 cases the full amounts totalling £1.48 million have been recovered from the traders concerned."

The cases involved external trade, beef and sheep premiums, milk, peas, beans and lupins. The audit office found that theft, and losses in stocks through bad storage conditions, cost the Treasury £5.74 million in lost revenue between 1980 and 1987.

The report criticizes the board for slowness in recording and collecting debts totalling £64 million by July 1989, most of which had been outstanding for over six months.

National Audit Office - Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce Management, accountability and the prevention of fraud (Stationery Office, £5.70)

Scientist in clash over second Maguire test

DEFENCE lawyers for the Maguire family could have run the prosecution's expert witnesses "into the ground" during their 1976 trial, had the experts let them know the forensic details, Sir John May said yesterday.

Sir John, a former Court of Appeal judge, is nearing the end of the third week of public hearings in his inquiry into the cases of the Guildford Four and the Maguires, a north London Irish family jailed for up to 15 years on charges of possessing nitro-glycerine. He made his remark to Dr Thomas Hayes, a scientific officer at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment (RARDE), Woolwich, where swabs taken from the Maguires' hands were tested.

Dr Hayes had been examined for two days last week but was asked to return after previously unpublished notebooks from the RARDE were read to the inquiry on Tuesday. Those disclosed new aspects of the forensic inquiry that had not been mentioned either at the original trial or before Sir John and suggested discrepancies in the evidence at the trial and the present inquiry.

One was a second test run at RARDE on the samples taken from the Maguires' hands. Most of the first tests run on 4 December 1974 had been reported as showing a positive reaction indicating nitro-glycerine contamination. That was the sole evidence against the accused and at the trial it was said only one test had been run.

The new documents show that Mr Walter Elliott, a scientific officer at RARDE, in fact ran a second test on December 10, the day before charges were first laid against the Maguires. That was disclosed yesterday as detailing negative results on every sample he studied. The tests included looking for trace

elements found in the form of the nitro-glycerine Frangex, normally used by the IRA. That, Mr David Clarke, QC, counsel for the inquiry, told Dr Hayes "could be thought of as a confirmatory test" that had negated the first one. Dr Hayes said he found the second result "fairly neutral".

How does it come about that that test was done and yet not mentioned at the trial, Mr Clarke asked. Dr Hayes: "I cannot answer why it was concealed."

Asked by Sir John about notes on another case handled by Dr Hayes at RARDE, which claimed to show nitro-glycerine present on samples from the test results were well outside limits. Dr Hayes said that when things were used for a prosecution that was to him a "very weighty consideration". Sir John asked: "Did it ever occur to you to put even the slightest proviso of doubt?" "Apparently not, sir," Dr Hayes replied.

Dr Hayes was asked about tests he had run to distinguish between nitro-glycerine and a closely related explosive, PETN. In the type of test at first run on the Maguire hand swabs both would give the same result. At the trial it was suggested for the prosecution that the test was adequate to distinguish nitro-glycerine

from anything else. At the inquiry last week Dr Hayes had said that he and other RARDE scientists had ruled out consideration of PETN when dealing with IRA bombs as it was never used "in the main charge".

Dr Hayes, the new documents show, ran a test to distinguish nitro-glycerine and PETN on debris collected from the Horse and Groom public house in Guildford in October 1974, one of the bombings that led eventually to the Maguire case. Why, asked Mr Anthony Arlidge QC for the Maguire family, had he done that? "To help the case officer," Dr Hayes said.

Mr Clarke put it to Dr Hayes that not disclosing to the original trial the existence of a separate second test to distinguish between nitro-glycerine and PETN "really was, to use the modern phrase, economical with the truth".

"In the way the term is normally applied I have to disagree with you," Dr Hayes replied.

Sir John May said: "If the defence had known about PETN I am sure you will appreciate it could have been possible to examine you into the ground."

"Conceivably so, yes," Dr Hayes responded. The inquiry continues today.

Patten warns 'too political' charities

CHARITABLE organizations with memberships larger than the main political parties should not become too political, Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, said last night.

"Many charities have become effectively multi-million pound corporations which put the annual budgets of political parties in the shade," Mr Patten said in a lecture in London. The growth in membership of environmental groups was especially striking.

Charities like Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the National Trust had millions of supporters while the Conservative Party had a membership of less than a million.

Mr Patten said: "Government cannot ignore these changes, nor should a democratic government want to do so. The environmental non-governmental organizations deserve much of the credit for heightened public awareness of the issues. What was not long ago widely regarded as a minority interest of the whole well-meaning cranks is today the stuff of international conferences in six-star hotels."

Some, though, were inclined to criticize government whatever it did. "The knee-jerk reaction of some of today's environmental groups for example is simply not justified."

The Charity Commission's rules allowed such organizations considerable latitude. However, a narrowly-focused organization could become a lobby, not just to stop something happening, but to stop anything happening at all," he said.

"It can discredit rationality in public policy-making. It can cheapen public debate, and in the process of doing that it can undermine the very concerns which it holds dear."

Victim of IRA bomb dies

A woman who was seriously injured in an IRA car bombing in Belfast which killed her husband died in hospital yesterday.

Mrs Ellen Sefton, aged 65, suffered severe injuries in the blast on Tuesday which killed her husband James, a retired police reservist, instantly as they drove through the north of the city along Ballygomartin Road.

Mr Sefton retired from the police three years ago. The IRA admitted it had planted the bomb - thought to consist of Semtex plastic explosive and wired to the underside of Mr Sefton's car.

Health and smoking

Negotiations to ban cigarette advertisements without health warnings must be concluded swiftly, the committee monitoring agreements on advertising and sponsorship said yesterday. The Government and the tobacco industry were told unless there was a quick end to discussions, present agreements would be threatened.

Visas dropped

People from Argentina and East Germany will be able to visit Britain without visas from today. The changes, which reflect improved links with both countries, were announced by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary.

Theatre reprieve

The King's Head Theatre, in Islington, north London, has won its appeal against a funding cut which would have led to its closure. Greater London Arts has restored the £28,000 it cut eight weeks ago, but said it was still "deeply concerned about the make-up of the board".

Driver returns

Mr John Johnston, of Stoke on Trent, the driver of a British holiday coach which overturned on Sunday near Joigny, 80 miles from Paris, killing 11 people, returned to Britain by air ambulance yesterday with nine of the passengers who were badly injured in the accident.

Air accident job

Mr Kenneth Smart has been appointed the Chief Inspector of Air Accidents, the first aeronautical engineer, rather than a pilot, to be put in charge of finding the cause of aviation accidents in Britain. Mr Smart, takes over in September from Mr Donald Cooper, who is retiring.

Custody advice

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Britain's senior female judge, said that warning parents should not expect courts to assume mothers are the best parent for children to live with. She was ruling in the Court of Appeal after a father had his appeal allowed in a contested custody case.

Back on course

William Hill the bookmakers reopened betting yesterday on the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Betting was suspended when suspicions arose over the large number of unexpected winners on the Right Rev. John Taylor, Bishop of St Albans. He has moved from a 10-1 outsider to 6-4 favourite.

CORRECTIONS

In yesterday's report on the Guinness trial at Southwark Crown Court, Mr Ernest Saunders should have been quoted as saying that he was as state yesterday. Marienbad is now called Mariánské Lázně.

The Bohemian spa of Carlsbad is now called Karlovy Vary, not Mariánské Lázně as stated yesterday. Marienbad is now called Mariánské Lázně.

By the way, the Guinness trial was held at Southwark Crown Court, not St Albans. The trial was held at Southwark Crown Court, not St Albans. The trial was held at Southwark Crown Court, not St Albans.

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THINGS: CHAIRS, CASHMERE, ALL WARE, CREDIT CARDS

Sandringham WI member calls for an encore

By ALAN HAMILTON

JAM may be yesterday's image of the 1950s but the Women's Institutes, and certain things remain inviolable. As the Queen entered the Albert Hall yesterday to address their annual general meeting, 6,000 delegates gave rousing voice to "Jerusalem".

Refuting her position as head of state and a member of Sandringham WI of 42 years' standing, the Queen is a traditionalist. The second reading of the movement's anthem during the day's proceedings was at her request. Her vibrant peacock blue hat was one of only a handful exhibited at a gathering once famous for them. In its 75th

year, the WI is moving determinedly into the 1990s armed with concerns well beyond those of domestic rural life. But, as the Queen reminded her audience, the movement was well to the van of social and environmental issues, even in its early days.

"In the 1920s, not long after the movement began, the Women's Institutes were already talking about oil pollution, about adult education and how the voluntary movement could contribute." The Women's Institutes were renowned in all they did for their high standards and for their balance and common sense of their com-

ments. Despite their most distinguished member's praise of their efforts on behalf of rural life, yesterday's meeting looked much further ahead, passing motions opposing the commercial development of Antarctica and urging a ban on the use of the hormone bovine somatotropin to enhance milk yield in cows. The latter, surprisingly, was seconded by a dairy farmer's wife from North Wales.

But even that was not enough for at least one speaker. The agony aunt Miss Claire Rayner urged the movement to become more militant on current issues, to carry their campaigning from the countryside

into the towns, to establish more branches in Asian and Afro-Caribbean population centres, and generally to make much more noise.

"I have in the past referred to the WI as a sleeping giant," Miss Rayner said. "The voices of a third of a million women should be enough to make any government minister stop in his tracks. I fear you don't raise that voice often enough."

Perhaps fortunately, the Queen was not present to hear Miss Rayner's call to arms whose muscles, she said, could become flabby from lack of use. Miss Rayner, incidentally, did not wear a hat.



Changing times: The new 5p coin (left) carries the same design as the existing coin (right) but will be smaller, with more pronounced milled edges. It will be issued on June 27, and the new 10p in June 1992

June 1990

I paid no success fees to investors, Saunders insists

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE former Guinness chief executive, Ernest Saunders, yesterday made his first court-room denial that he took part in an illegal share support operation during the company's battle to take over the Distillers drinks group. But he encouraged people to buy Guinness shares because he thought they were a "damn good buy".

His counsel, Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, asked: "Did you have anything to do with the arranging of share support for the Guinness shares?" Mr Saunders replied: "If you mean did I have anything to do with, or know about, paying indemnities or success fees to people for buying Guinness shares the answer is 'no'. If you are asking did I encourage people, institutions or anyone I met to sell Distillers shares to Guinness, to take the opportunity to invest in Guinness shares because I thought they were a damn good buy, the answer is 'yes', because that was my job."

Mr Ferguson: "Did you have any discussions about share support in the sense that has been used by the prosecution, ie, illegal?" Mr Saunders: "No, no, no, no."

Mr Saunders, Gerald Ranson, the chairman of Heron International, the stockbroker Anthony Parnes and the financier Sir Jack Lyons deny 24 counts alleging theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act during the 1986 battle with the supermarket group Argill.

Mr Saunders told Southwark Crown Court how he lobbied Cabinet ministers and newspaper editors to try to prevent Guinness's second bid for Distillers being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. He attended a party in Birdcage Walk on March 11, 1986, to celebrate Sir Gordon Reece's knighthood.

"Almost the entire Cabinet were present as well as most of the Fleet Street editors," he said. "I have never worked so hard for three hours in my life. I got round most of the Cabinet and all of the editors."

Ten days later, Guinness was told that its revised bid would not be referred.

Mr Saunders enlisted the highly-placed contacts of such people as Sir Gordon and Sir Jack Lyons because "I was an outsider, I did not have establishment roots". Mr Saunders said he had consid-

ered pulling out of the operation on February 19, when Guinness was told its bid would not go to the commission provided it was revised to show that some Distillers brands would be sold immediately after the takeover.

At a meeting with Guinness's merchant banking and legal advisers that night, Mr Saunders said he had not been sure they were in a position to continue. "This was a most emotive and traumatic evening. The advisers' attitude was 'yippee, we can go ahead, why are we wasting time talking about it?'. I had a most serious personal dilemma about whether we should proceed or take this opportunity to make an exit with dignity from this horrendous battle we were waging with the Argill group."

That proved a furious argument. "I was told most clearly that to do this would destroy my credibility and that of the company. We would never be able to mount

● I got round most of the Cabinet and all of the editors. I've never worked so hard ●

a takeover again. It would also damage the credibility of the advisers, which seemed to concern them most."

Mr Saunders telephoned his chairman, Lord Iveagh, who was full of congratulations and dismissed his chief executive's reservations.

Mr Saunders said that one of his concerns was dealing with the board of Distillers, which supported the Guinness takeover and was prepared to pay the costs of the bid. "It was like dragging a tranquilized rhino around," he said. "I was constantly nagging them to keep up."

He told one of the Guinness directors, the American lawyer Mr Thomas Ward, that he would have to become more closely involved if the bid went ahead. Mr Ward said he was happy to do so, provided Guinness made it worth his while. They agreed they would go ahead and when Mr Saunders telephoned Lord Iveagh to confirm it, the chairman showed no concern about any payments being made to Mr Ward.

Mr Saunders said the fight with Argill "was not a battle, it was a war, fought on many fronts and with many weapons". The Scottish firm re-

sorted to law in a most unusual manner. Not only did it challenge the legality of the merger agreement with Distillers, but it also sought a judicial review of the Office of Fair Trading decision not to refer the bid to the monopolies commission. That was rejected by the Court of Appeal.

Mr Saunders accused Argill of a "disgusting" advertising campaign that led Guinness to take legal action. He said he did not object to campaigns attacking him personally, but when Argill sought to "rub-bish" Guinness's brands, he contacted the solicitor Sir David Napley in the hope that a letter from such a well-known figure would halt Argill's activities.

Mr Saunders said Guinness adopted innovative tactics to get its case across, including a television commercial shown four times nightly, delivering a video of its presentation on the case to shareholders, institutions, and "plastering" London taxis with posters.

He believed the deal swung Guinness's way when Norwich Union announced it would accept the Guinness offer. "This started the bandwagon. Institutions are like sheep and like to be seen on the winning side."

Mr Saunders was asked to explain a \$100m investment in July 1986 with the American arbitrageur Mr Ivan Boesky. He said the deal was proposed by Mr Ward. "At that time Boesky was considered the finest financial expert, not only in the USA but in the UK as well."

Mr Saunders believed this was a good way of getting a toe-hold in the US market. By investing with Boesky, Guinness might get a stake in a company it could ultimately take over.

Mr Saunders met Boesky once for 30 minutes and was impressed by him, "but I should say now that I knew then what I know now I would have had nothing to do with it."

Mr Justice Henry later told the jury that Mr Boesky had been arrested in November 1986 and had "fallen from grace". Mr Saunders said: "It was horrible. It was the worst possible thing we could have done."

Mr Saunders said he was questioned by Guinness directors that December about whether there was any link between Mr Boesky's arrest and Guinness's investment in his fund. "I replied categorically 'no'."

The hearing continues today.



The Cambodian national dance company at Southwark Cathedral, south London, at the beginning of their first tour of the West for 30 years. Written records of 5,000 dances and their music were destroyed in the Pol Pot era. Only one woman, En Theay, is said to know them all.

Former chaplain jailed for sex game

By KERRY GILL

A FORMER Church of Scotland minister was jailed for 18 months yesterday after admitting 10 charges involving sexual offences against eight girls between the ages of 10 and 12.

Gordon Haggarty, aged 49, who left the church when the offences came to light, was said to have betrayed his trust as a minister. The High Court in Edinburgh heard how Haggarty, who was ordained in 1971, had tied up girls, pretending it was part of a game involving kidnapping and rescue, and had photographed them in indecent poses over a period lasting from 1978 until 1987.

Mr Hugh Matthews, advocate depute, for the prosecution, said Haggarty met the girls through a number of sources, including his church in Aberdeen. He said the offences were lewd, libidinous and indecent. The idea was that the children would act out a story of kidnapping and rescue for eventual publication in a church magazine.

Child victims suffer in 'near-perfect crimes'

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

PAEDOPHILIA verges on the perfect crime, with silent victims, few witnesses and persistent offenders who believe they are doing little harm, a national police conference was told yesterday.

An astronomic number of children may be at risk as police discover paedophilia could be far more extensive than they had believed. Yet little or nothing was being done either to protect children or to treat offenders.

The potential dimensions of the crime were described at the conference in Torquay of the Association of Chief Police Officers by Commander Richard Monk, who

leads Scotland Yard's growing drive against paedophilia. The Yard's intelligence files now hold details of 3,000 convicted offenders, their associates and key suspects.

Mr Monk said paedophiles were "evil like Hitler because they actually believe what they do is right. And because they are right and we are wrong they ignore conventional punishment, cover their tracks well and go on offending. The scale of offending is enormous."

They were far and away the largest group of re-offenders in the criminal justice system. Mr Monk said he had listened to the confessions of one man

who had abused 200 children in two years. In other cases babies of six months had been abused.

He described a video of a girl aged nine. The camera focused on the child's face as she waited fearfully to be abused. Mr Monk said he was not talking of a man in a shabby mac lurking behind bushes in a park. He was describing the man who targets his victim over days, weeks, months and even a year. One man courted and married a single mother to abuse her children. The typical paedophile, Mr Monk said, was often white, middle aged, single, without convictions and perhaps linked to an organization dealing with young people. Sometimes the offenders were wealthy, high-ranking or influential.

Few women were involved, Mr Monk said. The investigation into paedophiles acting as bogus social workers did not fit the normal pattern, which was usually covert. The commander said people might think of medieval punishments. Offenders needed treatment but there was almost none available.

Mr Monk also looked at the problems of juvenile crime. He said that the peak age for all offenders was 15 but there was evidence that that may be dropping. At one stage gangs involved in street robbery were aged between 16 and 19. Now it is 14 to 17.

Sir Stanley Bailey, chief constable of Northumbria, said that there was evidence that offenders on bail can go out and commit more offences while they wait to be tried. A group of four juveniles who burgled houses and stole from cars committed 56 crimes and were arrested on 20 separate occasions before they were finally tried six months after their arrest.

Cleveland lessons 'have been learnt'

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE lessons of the Cleveland child abuse scandal have been learnt and it is now less likely that a similar situation could arise again, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said yesterday.

Commenting on a new report on child protection in Cleveland, she said: "We are impressed with the progress Cleveland has made. Out of the misery of the past three years we have learnt the required lessons and they have been acted upon. Arrangements to properly protect children and their respective parents are working well, thanks to a greater co-operation from all agencies."

The department took the unprecedented step of ordering a second inquiry into child protection work in the area, after the first Social Services Inspectorate report in 1988

identified a number of weaknesses in services, particularly in collaboration between agencies. The first inspection followed the Lord Justice Butler-Sloss inquiry, which took place after 120 children were taken into care between February and July 1987 as alleged child abuse victims.

Mrs Bottomley said the latest report, published yesterday, showed that collaboration between social services and the police had improved, with parents also playing a greater role. She urged other authorities to study the report and incorporate many of the working practices that Cleveland has already set in progress.

Mr Bob Pitt, the Cleveland social services committee chairman, said the report "was very good news for all the people of Cleveland".

Jail ban call for under-15s

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PENAL reformers believe they may be able to force the Government into proposing a ban on imprisonment for boys aged under 15 when ministers draft a criminal justice reform Bill this summer.

Faced by criticism that Britain's use of custody for juveniles is seriously out of step with that in similar Western European countries, ministers have proposed in the White Paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*, that prison should be barred for girls under 18.

The concession has left ministers open to the accusation that they are extending sex discrimination in sentencing policy. Such groups as the Howard League and the National Association for the Care

and Resettlement of Offenders think courts should be barred from imprisoning all juveniles, including those convicted of the gravest offences. They say time in prison, however brief, is only likely to harden delinquent youths and make them more likely to re-offend.

The Howard League yesterday called on the Government to recognize the "absurdity" of its position by agreeing a limited new reform and banning prison for boys aged 14. Courts cannot jail girls of that age.

Just under 300 boys aged 14 are sent each year to young offender institutions, part of the Home Office's prison department. Of those, only 16 per cent have committed violent offences. The Howard League has a dossier of case histories which it says illustrates the inappropriateness of custodial sentences for children. It includes the case of a youth, Stephen, who was jailed for eight weeks at the age of 14 years 4 months for threatening a woman with a knife. The offence, committed on his 14th birthday, was his first and, according to social reports, had occurred shortly after three members of his immediate family had died.

In 1988, the last year for which figures are available, 25 girls aged 15 were jailed, 24 aged 16 and 109 aged 17. More than 3,000 boys aged 14 to 16 and 4,100 young men aged 17 were given custodial sentences.

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The consultants have also handed over their findings to Five Trading Standards Officers, the National Computing Centre and the companies concerned. Mr Lothian suggested that some of the

Big rise in reported crimes predicted

THE increase in reported crime in Britain this year compared with last year may be the biggest rise since 1945, if the early trend continues, top police officers were told yesterday (Stewart Tandler writes).

The possibility of substantial double figures for 1990 was raised by Mr Paul Condon, chief constable of Kent, at the conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers. The tentative prediction came in a presentation of community expectations and the police. Mr Condon said that police would be blamed for any rise. The responsibility of other agencies and the public might be ignored. "It turns out to be the worst year since the war for a percentage increase in reported crime, there will be only one door to knock on, to blame, and that will be the police."

His prediction was based on figures for the South-east. He said six forces in the area, including his own, had seen a 20 per cent increase in reported crime for the first three months of 1990 against the same period of 1989. Reported burglaries had increased by 30 per cent. It was a paradox that these rises had taken place when police had put more effort into community policing programmes, crime prevention and neighbourhood watches.

Home Office figures for the first quarter across England and Wales are not expected until the end of the month. Forces have reported varying increases, with the West Midlands showing an increase of 15 per cent while North Wales showed a rise of only 0.5 per cent.

The rises are being attributed to a large number of reasons. Police are talking about an increase in car crime and speculating there may be more petty crime by drug abusers to buy drugs. The warm winter may have encouraged more crime as householders grew careless leaving open windows.

Figures for reported crime have been stable for recent years after a large increase at the beginning of the decade.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, told the conference that attacks on the police were being played upon eagerly by mischief-makers but some concern was understandable and some criticism should be heeded.

It would have been strange if there had not been concern after the sensational release of the Guildford Four and the disbandment of the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad, he said. What he found hard to accept was the lack of attention paid to the difficulties and dangers faced by police.

Dishonest lawyers bring levy

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A LEVY of £295 to meet claims arising from the work of dishonest solicitors is to be imposed on all members of the profession in England and Wales who handle clients' money.

A Law Council meeting yesterday endorsed the compulsory special levy in the face of a rise of more than 100 per cent in the value of claims lodged with the Law Society's compensation fund last year. Claims received last year totalled £14.6 million, against £6.7 million the year before.

The society estimates that between now and the end of 1991, claims will cost the profession nearly £27 million. The special levy will affect all partners and sole practitioners, making up 28,000 of the 55,000 practising solicitors in England and Wales.

A report to the council showed that last year the number of defaults by solicitors' firms rose by more than 30 per cent to 64, of which 62 were sole practitioners. In 1988, 49 firms defaulted, 46 of them sole practitioners.

The huge rise in claims, although partly accounted for by six "extraordinary defaults", is certain to fuel demands within the profession for tighter controls on sole practitioners. The last time a sharp rise in claims prompted a levy was in 1988 when solicitors were asked to pay £515. The annual contribution was then increased from £60 to £100.

Since then there has been a steady rise in the number and size of claims. In 1988 there were 577 claims, valued at £6.7.

● The Law Society is to open an office in Brussels, the society council agreed yesterday. It will be the first time a British legal profession has set up formal representation there and is "a recognition of the growing importance of the European Community's decision-making powers".

Restoring vision to London

By CLIFFORD LONGLEY, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS EDITOR

A JOINT church campaign which aims at restoring a sense of vision and identity to London was launched at St Paul's Cathedral last night. A declaration also deplored the "pitifully inadequate" living conditions of many of the capital's citizens.

The declaration was signed by Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster, the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, other Anglican and Roman Catholic leaders, and leading churchmen from Free Church and black-led Christian denominations in London.

The campaign arose from meetings between the 14 signatories over the last year, which prompted them to try to "seek a fresh vision for our city". An ecumenical service was held to mark the commitment of the various denominations to work together, particularly in the context of the forthcoming "decade of evangelism".

Judged by church attendance, London is one of the least religious cities in Europe, and the joint declaration emphasized that "spiritual poverty frequently co-exists with material affluence". Christians were urged to help to build the city of God in their midst.



Annabel Cullen with her self-portrait, which has won the BP Portrait Award for 1990, the first year of BP's sponsorship of the National Portrait Gallery's 11-year-old competition. Miss Cullen, aged 36, was at her third attempt (Simon Tait writes). "It's a self-portrait because it's much easier to paint yourself than to hire a sitter," she said. Miss Cullen, who has a studio in Balham, and works part-time as a publisher's commissioning manager, hopes the £10,000 prize, increased from last year's £8,000, will enable her to paint fulltime. The actor Tom Conti

presented the prizes. One judging innovation introduced this year is that the photographs of the sitters, in the past shown alongside the portraits, are no longer there. "A number of artists complained that it was misleading to ask people to compare two media," said Mr John Hayes, director of the National Portrait Gallery. "We felt they had a valid point and have dropped it." The second prize of £4,000 went to Martin Churchill for a portrait of Maria Chevska. Third prize and £2,000 went to Philip Harris for another self-portrait.

Jail for 'mad hacker' who broke into college systems from home

A TEENAGE computer hacker who broke into university systems and destroyed vast amounts of material was yesterday jailed for four months. Nicholas Whiteley, now aged 21, called himself "the mad hacker" and waged his six-month war in 1988 from a home computer in his bedroom.

The part-time computer consultant with the London Opera Company added and deleted information on systems at universities in London, Bath and Hull. His activities caused damage estimated at £25,000. Southwark Crown Court was told during a three-week trial.

Whiteley, of Ascot Gardens, Enfield, north London, was con-

victed of four charges of criminal damage two weeks ago. He is the first computer hacker to be jailed in Britain.

Jailing him for a year, with eight months suspended, Judge Rivlin, QC, said Whiteley gained "considerable pleasure at the time, both in participation and carrying out these matters and it led to much boasting". The judge told Whiteley: "You were then in the process of starting your own computer magazine *Outer Limits* and I have no doubt that you thought this would help and promote your magazine."

Whiteley was found guilty of four counts of criminal damage to computer disks, two at Queen

Mary College in London and one each at Bath and Hull universities in 1988.

He was cleared of three other charges of criminal damage and six others were dropped before and during the trial. He was also cleared of criminal damage to computer hardware.

Judge Rivlin refused prosecution requests to recover £28,000 costs and to confiscate Whiteley's home computer as a "weapon". After the case, Whiteley's former manager at the London Opera Company, Mr Jonathan Balkind, said he would take him back.

● A random survey by independent computer consultants is being studied by officials at the Depart-

ment of Trade and Industry's consumer safety unit after it was found that two popular personal computer makes carry faults that are potentially "dangerous" to users and service engineers.

Gaelic Communications Ltd, a subsidiary of Open Systems Technology (OST) Europe Ltd of Dunfermline, Scotland, have discovered machines manufactured by Vegas of Italy which carry a fault in their mains power supplies. The fault means the entire machine could suddenly go live after being switched on, putting people at risk of electrocution.

Units made by Brother, the BCI0 model, were also found in the survey to be potentially hazard-

ous and to fail British Standards Institute specifications. The electrical risk to them is for service engineers who might be unfamiliar with the model, the consultants claim.

Mr Alex Lothian, chairman of OST, said the survey had been taken at random and he feared that the findings could be "the tip of the iceberg". He asked: "How many other machines and models have similar faults? This should now be looked at in depth."

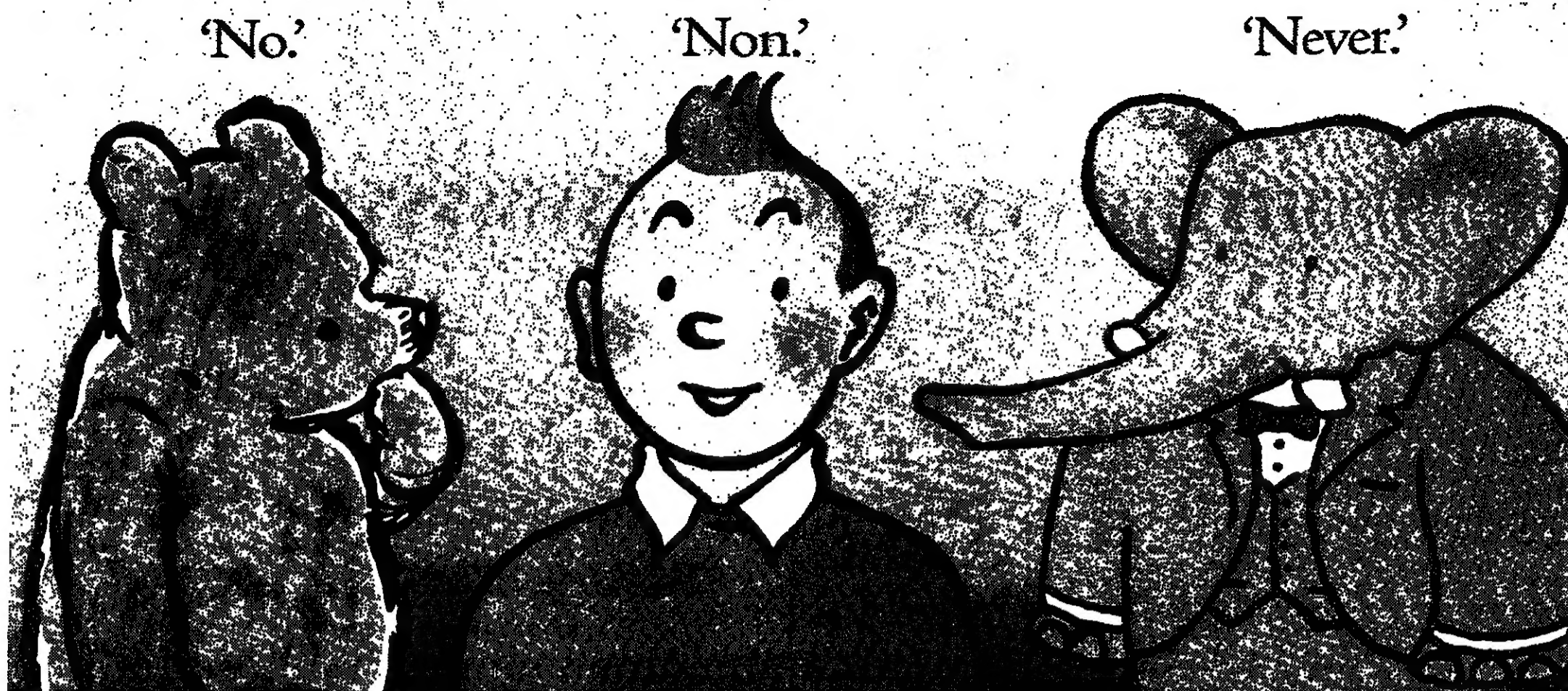
The consultants have also handed over their findings to Five Trading Standards Officers, the National Computing Centre and the companies concerned. Mr Lothian suggested that some of the

problems might centre on cheap equipment manufactured in Taiwan and the Far East. Vegas had accepted the findings and was recalling models.

The findings have emerged in *Computer Weekly*, where it is claimed that five manufacturers were found to have personal computers of questionable electrical safety. However, Mr Lothian said that machines made by Epson, Opus and DCS had not been evaluated by the consultants.

The Department of Trade and Industry said it was evaluating the report but confirmed that three of the companies mentioned in the magazine story were not under investigation.

Have today's children deserted books for television?



On the contrary, children's publishing has been a boom industry in recent years.

Favourite characters from the twenties have rarely been in greater demand.

Winnie-the-Pooh, Tintin and Babar the Elephant are still delighting thousands of children. Not to mention Methuen their publisher.

Thomas the Tank Engine remains a favourite of Heinemann as well as countless 4-to-8 year olds.

Reed International also takes a childish pleasure in this success.

They own Methuen and Heinemann.



Firms accused of spurning vast pool of experienced labour

By KEVIN EASON

EMPLOYERS are turning their backs on a vast pool of experienced labour by aiming recruitment at workers aged under 35, a survey for the Brook Street employment company says.

The nationwide Gallup survey showed that over 90 per cent of employers fear a recruitment crisis over the next 10 years as the number of children leaving school to join the jobs market drops dramatically. However, only 14 per cent see the over-50 age group as providing a pool of labour that could fill the increasing vacancies, while only one in three is making provision to employ women returning to work after having a family.

Brook Street says the findings of the survey, which covered 250 personnel directors, show that employers are not acting quickly enough to anticipate changes by relaxing their age policy, starting training programmes or pin-pointing women "returners". The report comes at a crucial time when some employers, especially supermarket chains in the South-east, have been forced to turn to older workers and mothers returning to work because they are unable to find young recruits.

Brook Street says such companies are still in the minority and thousands more fail to recognize the recruitment difficulties to come. Miss Diana Cornish, Brook Street managing director, said

yesterday: "By its actions, if not its words, British industry confirms the public opinion that employers do discriminate on the basis of age and sex."

"Nearly all employers acknowledge the predicted shortfall of young people entering the labour market and the majority believe it will have an effect on their recruitment policies over the next five years. Yet they are still putting their faith in an endless supply of stylish and competent young people."

Moreover, while many of them make appropriately caring responses to the possibility of employing older people or women returners, few are actually doing so. The survey found 86 per cent of employers saying that the under-35s

were "best-suited" to their business while a third was relying on recruitment of people under 25 to fill vacancies.

The under-25s were considered "quick-thinking, less entrenched in attitudes and familiar with technology". Potential recruits over 50 were rejected because they were perceived to have less stamina, to be more set in their ways and were failing to live up to the "trendy, dynamic self-image" of some companies.

The report says: "In short, they are a victim of some undefined judgement or style test based on their birth date. The blinkered attitude of companies is confirmed by four out of five potential employees, who believe they had been turned down for a job even though they

had the right skills." Brook Street says that "ageism" was further underlined by the fact that up to three-quarters of firms believed that receptionists, clerks and secretaries should be under 35 but company chairman and cleaners should be aged over 50.

Of the companies preparing to attract women back to work, 69 per cent are considering such incentives as flexible working hours, job-sharing and time off for school holidays. The generous approach ends there, however, with Gallup discovering that only 8 per cent were prepared to offer child care schemes and 10 per cent workplace nurseries. Brook Street says employment prospects do not look "particularly promising" for those

over 50 as only 14 per cent of companies are thinking about recruiting within that age group. That is despite the fact that almost nine out of 10 of the 2,000 employees also interviewed by Gallup said they would postpone retirement if their employer offered more money or flexible hours.

The Brook Street summary concludes: "The consequences of this may be that Britain's social fabric will be severely stretched by vast numbers of middle-aged men and women with time on their hands. The nation's gardens and golf course proprietors will benefit while the economy suffers."

Leading article, page 15

Consultants' opposition rises to NHS reform

By DAVID YOUNG

OPPOSITION to government plans to reorganize the National Health Service and the setting up of self-governing NHS hospital trusts is increasing among senior hospital consultants, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

The number against has risen from 52 per cent last year to more than 60 per cent now. Mr Paddy Ross, chairman of the association's central consultants and specialists committee, has written to Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, seeking confirmation of an assurance given in the House of Lords that no one will be compelled to participate in the new arrangements.

He has called on the Government to rule that where consultants have demonstrated their unwillingness to take part in the introduction of self-governing trusts applications by hospital management to set up such trusts should not go ahead. Mr Ross wrote: "I remain very concerned about the fact many of the front-runner hospitals' plans for self-government still appear to be progressing despite clear evidence of lack of support from consultant staff."

The latest move by the association comes after the results of the first ballots held at hospitals which are regarded as front-runners to move towards self-governing status. Of the 28 hospitals out of the 64 which are expected to be candidates for self-governing where consultants have voted, a majority supporting the scheme has been returned in only five and 23 have voted overwhelmingly against the proposals. Among the remaining five are three hospitals in Sheffield and the vote is being

interpreted as a vote against the existing district health authority rather than a vote in support for the government proposals.

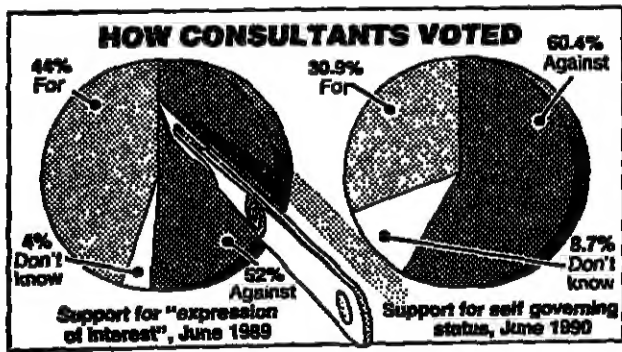
The BMA also said yesterday that in three cases where there had been an overwhelming vote against the scheme, at Darlington (81 per cent against), Eastbourne (84 per cent against) and King's Lynn (82 per cent against), the result had been that management proposals drawn up for a self-governing trust had been withdrawn. The most conclusive vote was at St Thomas's Hospital, London, where 96 per cent of consultants oppose the proposals.

The Department of Health has criticized ballots among sectors of staff at hospitals as unrepresentative, but Mr Ross said that where ballots had been carried out at 15 hospitals involving all staff the vote against had averaged 88.5 per cent, in favour 8.9 per cent and don't know 2.6 per cent.

Mr Ross said: "You cannot in a democratic society disregard the views of the majority when there is such a high turnout." Ballots among consultants were especially important as consultants were the people who treated the patients and attracted referrals from GPs.

He added: "Management do not see patients. The consultants are the key people in the vote. A self-governing trust cannot work unless you have the commitment of the consultants."

In a separate ballot among 144 GPs operating in the area served by Guy's Hospital in London 96 (66.7 per cent) said they were against the hospital becoming a self-governing trust. Only two (1.4 per cent) definitely voted in favour.



MPs seek help for 'forgotten army' of unpaid carers

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government's policy of encouraging the elderly, infirm and disabled to be cared for in their own homes will be a "fraud" unless unpaid carers are given higher benefits, better facilities and more relief, MPs say.

The Commons social services committee argues that Britain's forgotten army of six million carers, who save the country £24 billion a year, must be valued and helped instead of being regarded as a cheap option to residential care. In a report on community care the cross-party committee recommends a two-stage package of increased help for informal carers, who are mostly women looking after elderly or disabled relatives.

Recommendations include: increasing invalid care allowance from £28.20 a week to £35.70 and later to £43.60; more facilities to give carers an occasional break; more opportunities for carers to combine work with caring; better nursing and home help services; and the effect of the poll tax burden on carers and their dependants to be monitored.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, is already at odds with the Treasury on whether to risk a Commons rebellion by asking MPs to reverse a House of

Lords defeat, which requires the Government to earmark community care budgets for local authorities. The dispute has led the peers and the Commons committee to suspect that the Treasury will not provide sufficient funds to bring in the community care reforms recommended by the Griffiths report.

Members of the committee, except the Conservative MP Miss Ann Widdecombe, who refused to put her name to the report, are to press ministers for extra help for carers when MPs debate the peers' amendment and the income support regulations later this year. Mr Frank Field, the committee chairman, said: "If the Treasury tries to shake this report warmly by the throat we will know they are not serious about their proposals."

Although he admitted the committee had not costed its "modest" proposals because it had exhausted its research budget, he said if the Government provided the funds it would ask the Institute of Fiscal Studies to draw up figures. But Mrs Gillian Shepherd, junior social security minister, said the proposals would be "extremely costly".

Community Care: Carers, House of Commons Social Services Committee 5th report (Stationery Office, £7.15)



Chelsea cheer: Pensioners of the Royal Hospital Chelsea doffing hats and giving three cheers yesterday after a Founder's Day inspection by Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester. The seated pensioners were those unable to take part in the parade honouring Charles II, founder of the hospital in west London

Suicide of stadium tragedy witness

By RONALD FAUX

A FOOTBALL supporter who witnessed the Hillsborough disaster and was later counselled by depression by the Hillsborough Help Group was found hanged days after watching a television documentary on the tragedy, an inquest in Liverpool was told yesterday.

On February 6, Mr Duane Riley, aged 25, a labourer and Liverpool fan of Wrenlock Road, Anfield, watched the Yorkshire Television First Tuesday programme about the tragedy in which 95 people died. The following day he disappeared and four days later was found hanged in his garden shed.

Mr Roy Barter, the Liverpool coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide. He said there seemed little doubt that the television documentary was a precipitating factor. "It seems to have been that which triggered off his subsequent behaviour," he said.

Mr Riley who lived with his girlfriend, Anne Russell, and their son aged two, went to every Liverpool game up to the disaster. Miss Russell said that since then her husband would sit quietly, not talking. He had gone for counselling by the Hillsborough Help Group but that did not seem to help.

Mr Gerrard Flanagan, a social worker with the group, said in a statement that Mr Riley had been angry at the police and other people who, he felt, did not appreciate how upset he was. His anger caused some disquiet at group sessions. He had felt kinship with those who died. Friends had taken Mr Riley to the Royal Liverpool Hospital where he had agreed to receive treatment as an out-patient but he had not kept his appointment.

Mr Chris Bryer, co-producer of the YTV documentary, said: "We would like to offer our condolences to the family but as yet we have been unable to consider the coroner's findings."

UK ends its 'waste dump' role

From MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, LUXEMBOURG

BRITAIN will cease to be a waste dump for other European Community countries after an agreement reached by EC environment ministers yesterday.

Thousands of tons of hazardous wastes, including the cancer-causing PCBs, previously sent to the UK for disposal in specialized plants such as the high-temperature incinerator operated by Rechem in South Wales, will now have to be dealt with in their country of origin.

The European agreement follows an initiative of Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, who last September proposed that industrialized countries should be self-sufficient in waste disposal. Mr Patten acted after a cargo of Canadian PCBs, fully authorized for importation into the UK, was refused entry at ports all around Britain after a campaign by the environmental pressure group Greenpeace.

Yesterday, Mr Patten's deputy, Mr David Trippier, joined other EC ministers at the quarterly council meeting in Luxembourg to agree formally the principle of waste disposal self-sufficiency. The ministers agreed that a network of disposal installations would be set up across Europe, "which must enable the Community as a whole to be self-sufficient in waste disposal, and enable the member states to work towards that aim individually."

Mr Trippier said: "For too long now we have been taking more than our fair share, but

enough is enough, and I see no reason at all why developed and industrialized countries should not provide their own facilities." He said he was "sick to death of Britain being called the dirty man of Europe" when the UK exported virtually no waste, while other European countries, including some who had made the allegation, were exporting waste to Britain.

He released detailed figures showing that last year The Netherlands exported just under 15,000 tons of hazardous wastes to the UK, while Belgium sent nearly 10,000 tons, and more than 5,000 tons came from Switzerland.

British waste treatment companies such as Rechem "would not be going out of business" through the ending

of EC waste imports, Mr Trippier said, because total UK imports of hazardous waste in 1989 were only 41,544 tonnes, while Britain's own domestic hazardous waste totalled two million tonnes. Britain would continue to accept imports of hazardous waste from Third World countries, because they did not have disposal facilities and they might dump their wastes in the sea or in a dangerous way on land.

Ministers also agreed yesterday that from January 1, 1993 batteries should be clearly labelled to make sure they are disposed of separately from other wastes, and that their contents of dangerous heavy metals such as cadmium should be clearly displayed.

Teacher training tutors 'lack vital guidance'

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TOO many tutors involved in training teachers are given no guidance on how to handle the task, according to three industrial experts who inspected teacher training courses. They said it was not enough to be a professional teacher with high academic qualifications.

Commercial management consultants from BP International, IBM UK and Lloyds Bank worked alongside four school inspectors examining nine courses at a higher education college, a polytechnic and a university.

Their report, published yesterday, said: "Once a tutor had been appointed, there was no attempt to help develop the training skills required, in particular those of counselling, tutoring and appraisal."

Head teachers and schools should become more involved in teacher training. Schools with trainee teachers were often given too little information by the colleges for them to

bring out the best in a student. One of the consultants, Mr Julian Greatrex, a management development expert with BP at the time of the inspections last spring, said he agreed the partnership of schools and training institutions was fragile. "They have no back-up, doing their own secretarial and clerical work. They have no time to think."

Schools, the report says, were not obliged to take students and where they did the majority of teachers were not paid for the additional work. Most were given no extra time to work with the students, who "felt inhibited from approaching busy teachers so they rarely could sit down for a reflective discussion of their progress."

Last night, the Department of Education and Science said some of the issues raised had now been dealt with.

University Entrance, the Official Guide (Sheed and Ward, 2 Creechchurch Lane, London EC3A 5AQ; £11.95)

● A university degree is now considered a status symbol alongside the house and the family car. Many parents were now considering joining their children at college, said Sir Edward Parkes, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, at yesterday's launch of University Entrance 1991.

● Almost twice as many women as men have to take manual or clerical jobs after graduating from European studies, according to Dr Nigel Copperthwaite and Mr Colin Mellors, of Bradford University's European studies department. They said: "Women's aspirations are as high as men's, but they find fewer opportunities."

Runner had heart disease

Mr Robert Ward, the runner aged 39 who collapsed and died in the London Marathon in April, was suffering from a rare form of heart disease, Southwark Coroner's Court heard yesterday.

Mr Ward, from Hampshire, had "hypertrophic cardiomyopathy", causing thickening and enlargement of the heart walls and fibres. A verdict of death from natural causes was recorded.

Dr Dan Tunstall Pedoe, medical director of the marathon, said: "The disease is a notorious cause of sudden unexpected death, which may occur at any time, not only with exercise." He was the first person to die in the 10 London marathons held.

Passport remand Paul SCAROTT, aged 34, the self-styled football hooligan deported from Italy, was remanded in custody for a week by Nottingham magistrates, accused of stealing cigarettes and cash worth £145 and making a false passport application.

Death fine

Sanyo was fined £4,000 by Teesside magistrates over the death of a woman employee at its microwave factory in Thornaby-on-Tees. Mrs Theresa Styles, aged 38, was killed by a 4,000-volt shock from an uninsulated conductor.

Flight delay

Mr Christopher Thompson, a pilot who made a forced landing on a corn field near Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight has been told by the farmer that his light plane cannot be moved until after harvesting in three months' time.

Life sentence

Adrian Coxhead, aged 28, was jailed for life at Bristol Crown Court for the murder of his lover, Diane Mitchell, aged 39, after she threatened to reveal their affair to the woman he lived with.

Poor hygiene

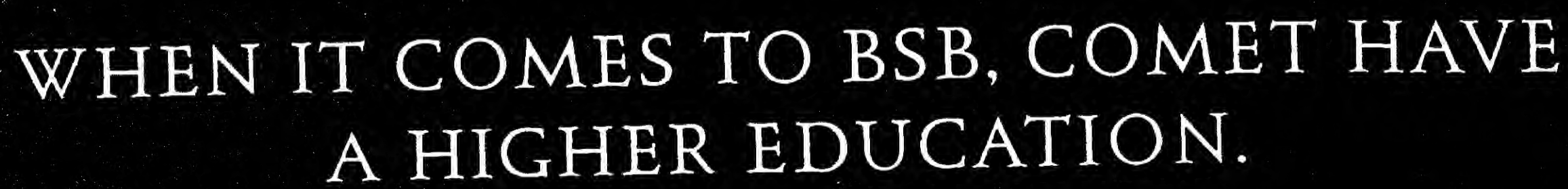
Danish Bacon was fined £5,300 yesterday for poor hygiene by magistrates in Exeter after health inspectors found dead birds in the company's warehouse in the city.

First woman

The Church of Ireland is to appoint its first woman priest, Mrs Jan Catterall, a deacon aged 37, is expected to be ordained in September at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork.

Biggest hostel

A planning application has been submitted to build a 450-bed youth hostel, the largest in Britain, in Bermondsey, south-east London.



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Abortion poll boost for MPs

Mr Major: I am acutely conscious of that. The aim of joining the ERM is to support policies to reduce inflation, not to damage them.

Mr Stuart Bell (Middlebrough, Lab) asked if, when the Government entered the ERM as Mr Major proposed in the summer, he would go in on the right hand of 2.5 per cent or the broader band of 6 per cent.

Mr Major said: "I can neither confirm the date that he surreptitiously slipped in to his question as an assumption, and neither am I in any position to enlighten him on his substantive point."

The Gallup survey conducted for the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child was cited yesterday as evidence of public support for their position by MPs planning a last-ditch attempt to persuade their colleagues that the law cannot be left in its present state.

They are arguing that, by decoupling abortion law from the Infant Life (Preservation) Act and so abolishing the blanket 28-week limit, and by lifting time limits in cases of handicap and grave risk to the mother's health, the legislation now before Parliament allows "abortion up to birth".

They also maintain that many MPs were unaware that that was the effect of their decisions in the complicated series of late-night votes during the committee stages of the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, and that the issue must be reconsidered when the Bill completes its Commons stages this month.

Miss Ann Widdecombe, Conservative MP for Maidstone, who says her hopes of an abortion limit of at most 22 weeks dashed in the April debate, which chose a 24-week limit for most terminations, said at a press conference at Westminster: "As most MPs agree, there was utter confusion when late abortions were debated in April, and the results of the survey show that the House of Commons must be given a second opportunity to consider the matter."

"As things stand", she added, "the appalling decisions reached on the matter of late abortion clearly fly in the face of public opinion."

"People throughout the country have a right to know whether or not their local MPs truly want abortion up to birth or did they support such a decision in error."

Miss Widdecombe added that many MPs thought they were voting for a "simplifying administrative measure" when they broke the link between the two Acts.

MPs opposed to liberalizing the abortion law have tabled a series of Commons amendments aimed at reinstating the 28-week limit for handicap and risk to the mother.

The Gallup poll found that 76 per cent of people wanted an upper limit of 24 weeks or less in cases of foetal handicap. A further 14 per cent supported 28 weeks. Three quarters of those surveyed opposed abortion on demand.

Approved Quality Used Car symbol are Mercedes-Benz engineering integrity.

Baker hails Soviet hope of reaching German deal

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MOSCOW has suddenly become convinced it can reach an agreement with Nato over the security status of a unified Germany, Mr James Baker, the United States Secretary of State, told alliance foreign ministers at Turnberry in Scotland yesterday.

Mr Baker said that since the Washington summit there had been "a change in spirit" within the Soviet leadership on the German question. He told his Nato counterparts at the spring meeting of the North Atlantic Council, held in the beautiful surroundings of the famous golf links, that the first sign of this change emerged from talks he had with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Copenhagen this week.

The Secretary of State said that Nato needed to move rapidly on its assessment of nuclear force requirements for Europe. "For our part, we want to share the nuclear risk as widely among the allies as possible while holding to a nuclear posture that our public and the rest of Europe find politically reassuring."

Although it was not discussed at the meeting, one nuclear weapon issue, the development and possible deployment of Tactical Air to Surface Missiles (TAAASMs), is likely to lead to difficulties between Bonn and Washington. German sources yesterday emphasized that Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, had made it clear in the past that he would not accept nuclear TAAASMs forward-deployed in Germany. The US decision is that these new missiles are being developed and that discussion on deployment will come later.

According to a senior US official, Mr Shevardnadze told Mr Baker that he was "impressed" by the efforts being made by the West to find a formula on Germany that would meet Soviet security interests. Although Moscow had not yet shifted from its position of opposing Nato

membership for a united Germany, Mr Shevardnadze had given a clear impression that an agreement was now much more likely.

Yesterday, as Mrs Thatcher underlined her belief, in a lunchtime speech to the foreign ministers, that Nato must preserve its basic principles as its plan for the future — including the retention of nuclear weapons forward-deployed in Europe — the general mood at the Turnberry meeting was one of real optimism.

Herr Genscher set out a challenging timetable, for agreements to be reached with the Soviet Union before the end of this year. He said that the "two plus four" talks on German reunification should be wound up before November. The same month, he wants a signing of a Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty and a 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe summit.

Herr Genscher said the legal reunification of the two Germanies was not far away, although he could not give a date. He added that West Germany's federal elections, due in December, could be postponed if there were a chance of unified elections, although there was a deadline of January 13 next year.

He also disclosed that on June 21 the West German Bundestag and the East German Volkskammer would be issuing a formal declaration confirming that the two parliaments recognized the existing Polish borders.

The timing of the declaration, which will embody the wording of a treaty, ultimately to be signed between Germany and Poland, is significant. For it will be made the day before the next scheduled meeting of the "two plus four" talks, in East Berlin. Poland will be represented at the following meeting in July in Paris.

The optimistic assessment by Mr Baker of Soviet thinking on Germany was reflected in all the discussions.

Gorbachov signals Warsaw Pact end

From RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachov yesterday signalled the end of the Warsaw Pact in its present form by offering "radical reforms" and proposing that joint bodies be set up with Nato to put the seal on the end of the Cold War.

In a declaration at the end of its top-level meeting yesterday, the Warsaw Pact said it was "necessary to review the character and functions of the organization" so as to transform it into "a pact of sovereign and emancipated states based on democratic principles". The meeting agreed to set up a commission to draw up detailed proposals, including reform of the unified military command, to be submitted to the next top-level gathering in the autumn.

The declaration said the re-organized Warsaw Pact hoped to consult Nato with a view to working towards European stability and disarmament agreements. The declaration did not address the problem of a united Germany directly, but Mr Yuli Kvitsinsky, the Soviet Union's Deputy Foreign Minister, said that nobody had proposed that a united Germany should belong to Nato. Mr Gorbachov told the meeting it was the "sacred right" of a united Germany to decide its own destiny.

Mr Kvitsinsky said no Warsaw Pact member had expressed the desire to leave. Instead there had been a debate on the concept of *la carte* membership along Nato lines, with states deciding whether, and to what extent, to participate in the military structure. He said the interaction between the new Warsaw Pact and Nato could be the "driving force" for a new era of European stability.

Mr Kvitsinsky said that "obsolete structures" in the Warsaw Pact would be abolished, but gave no details. He said he hoped that Nato would follow the Warsaw Pact's "good example" in transforming itself to meet the new circumstances of East-West relations. Contrary to "gloomy forecasts", however, the Warsaw Pact was still alive while responding to the new situation "sensibly and adequately".

The Warsaw Pact declaration said East and West now had purely geographical meaning, and old ideological concepts of "the enemy" had disappeared.

Mr Gorbachov later told Herr Lothar de Maizière, East Germany's Christian Democrat Prime Minister, that the Soviet Union would not hinder German unification provided it was "part of the European process leading to peace and stability".

But the reality is that the communists have almost unlimited access to hard currency because the party has been rewarded with the state structure since the war. "Dollars buy photocopiers, and faxes — without them we cannot run a modern campaign," remarks Mr Tashov, a campaign organizer.

The risks of launching a democracy with insufficient funds became apparent in the Polish local council elections last month. Solidarity-backed candidates won overwhelmingly, partly because only they had enough funds to print posters and run a campaign. Smaller right-wing parties, unable to seize the attention of the uncommitted, dribbled away. Most significantly, in the elections — Poland's first free polling since the war — the turnout was a mere 42 per cent.

The sense of competition fostered by high-profile campaigning simply did not emerge.

The first step after the revolutions of 1989 was to pronounce communism dead at the ballot box: that was the effect of the Polish elections in June 1989 and this year's East German, Hungarian and



Mr Baker meeting Mrs Thatcher for private talks during the Nato conference at Turnberry yesterday

Exports to East relaxed

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE West has agreed to abolish most controls on exports of high-technology goods to East Germany, and to ease restrictions applied to other East European countries and the Soviet Union. However, proposals to build a fibre-optics communications system across the Soviet Union have been blocked.

The Co-ordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom) approved a number of changes after two days of talks in Paris. In Bonn, Herr Helmut Haussmann, the West German Economics Minister, welcomed the changes, which would help East Germany and other East European countries to restructure their economies.

Diplomatic sources said the number of items banned for export to Warsaw Pact nations had been cut by about a third. Certain types of computers, machine tools and telecommunications equipment were among the items approved.

But Britain and the United States have discouraged two consortiums, one British and one American, from applying for licences to build modern communication lines across the Soviet Union using fibre-optic technology.

The United States has been under pressure for years from some European members of Cocom to agree to fewer restrictions. The timing of the US-British move may be a diplomatic signal to other countries that the system should not be dismantled too quickly.



Herr Haussmann: Trade relaxations welcomed

Mints in the West work overtime as unity nears

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

ECONOMIC union between the two Germanies on July 2 is a prospect already creating a boom in West Germany, according to figures released here this week which show that the gross national product and the number of job vacancies is rising swiftly while unemployment is falling.

Over the past quarter, GNP grew by 4.4 per cent, compared with only 2.5 per cent in the previous quarter, when reunification still seemed remote. Unemployment, meanwhile, fell by 5 per cent in May to 1,823,000. This means that 7 per cent of workers are now unemployed, compared with 7.9 per cent at the turn of the year, even though more than 100,000 East Germans have since joined the labour market. This is the lowest level of unemployment for eight years.

The number of registered unemployed is 150,000 lower than it was a year ago, despite the arrival of 721,000 ethnic Germans during 1989. Increased consumer demand — by virtue of both the new

settlers from East Germany and the preparation for the expected surge in demand after economic union — is an important factor in creating both jobs and wealth.

Herr Helmut Haussmann, the Economics Minister, welcomed the figures as "convincing evidence of the present dynamic of the German economy", which meant that, on the threshold of currency, economic and social union with East Germany, business was in an "extraordinarily healthy condition".

In East Germany, by contrast, the unemployment rate is rising swiftly with more than 100,000 people now registered as out of work. Concern about the effects of Western competition on East Germany led on Wednesday to chambers of trade and industry and representatives of small businesses in East Berlin calling a series of warning strikes for yesterday and today. "We feel ourselves abandoned all down the line," Herr Dieter Fosse, their treasurer, said. There were real fears that small businesses would rapidly be bankrupted by the competition from big Western chain stores after economic union.

Despite the worries, preparations for "X-Day" — as July 2 is called — are now well advanced. So that savers can complete the necessary formalities in time, banks are staying open daily until 6pm, and extra staff are being drafted in so branches can open at weekends.

The West German mints in Hamburg, Munich, Stuttgart and Karlsruhe have been working overtime since the state treaty on economic union was agreed just more than a month ago. Even with machines stamping out 750 coins a minute, however, it is not altogether certain that the deadline for changeover will be met. The main Hamburg mint is working from 7am to 4pm, producing two million coins a day.

West German Interior Minister, as "an extraordinary success for the close working relationship of the police in both parts of Germany".

Announcing details of the arrest at a press conference in East Berlin yesterday, Herr Peter-Michael Diestel, the East German Interior Minister, said that an application to hand Frau Albrecht over had been received from the West German federal prosecutor on May 15 and that she had then been traced by the East German Central Criminal Office. She was arrested at her home in an East Berlin suburb on Wednesday.

This all indicates that the West German authorities had only recently been given information about the false identity of Frau Albrecht, who had been living under the name of Ingrid Jäger since she

arrived in East Germany 10 years ago from Czechoslovakia. Herr Diestel did not exclude the possibility that her identity had been known to the communist regime, and it is certain that the Stasi must have been fully aware of who she was.

The daughter of a well-to-do family, she was the god-daughter of Herr Ponto. She had become involved with the Red Army Faction through working as an assistant in the office of a lawyer who was in charge of the defence of two RAF members.

In July, 1977, she made use of her close relationship with Herr Ponto to call to see him with flowers and two "friends." The intention was to hold him as hostage against the release of four RAF members, but he put up a struggle and was shot.

Emergency to quell Central Asian conflict

From RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet authorities, struggling to contain an explosion of ethnic rivalries, declared a state of emergency yesterday in Frunze, the capital of Kirghizia, after warnings that violence there was spreading over into a war with neighbouring Uzbekistan.

Mr Vadim Bakatin, the Soviet Interior Minister, said that 48 people had been killed in four days of clashes sparked off by a dispute, over land in the town of Osh, between native Kirghiz and local Uzbeks. Almost 350 people have been injured, more than 80 of them police or soldiers.

Mr Bakatin told the Supreme Soviet that what had started as local riots were developing into armed clashes between the republics of Kirghizia and Uzbekistan. "The violence has spread," he said.

The state of emergency had been declared in Frunze because of mass demonstrations by Kirghiz students and local residents demanding that the local party and government leadership resign, and giving it three days to do so. Reports said that 4,000 protesters had laid siege to official buildings. Mr Bakatin told deputies that the conflict in Kirghizia was the result of "idiotry, conceit and red tape in the allocation of land, in which the interests of one nationality were ignored."

He said that "primitive, medieval nationalism" was being stoked up in Muslim Central Asia, and that local militia forces were unable to handle the resulting inter-ethnic conflicts.

The situation in Osh itself was stable and under control. But "many thousands of people", armed with stones and weapons, were gathering between Osh and Andizhan across the border in Uzbekistan. More were streaming from Frunze to try to join the fighting. Soviet journalists in the region reported that Uzbeks in Osh and other Kirghiz towns had appealed to Uzbekistan for aid.

Kirghiz nationalists, many of them students, assembled yesterday in the main square at Frunze, the scene of violent demonstrations on Wednesday night, to urge all Kirghiz to go to Osh to fight the Uzbeks. Tass said that "columns of them were chanting slogans such as 'Kirghiz unite' and 'all Kirghiz to Osh!'."

Mr Bakatin said that 1,500 troops, 450 border guards and 900 Interior Ministry troops had been sent to quell the unrest, but were in danger of being overwhelmed.

The agency, reporting on the Frunze demonstration, said: "Participants in the rally forgot their demands, made in the morning, that Kirghiz should be allowed to leave for Osh. The protesters, or at least their leaders, are now more interested in power."

Tass added that demonstrators had booed and hissed the President of Kirghizia, Mr Absamat Masliev, when he tried to address them. *Izvestia* said that in 10 areas of Kirghizia police units were in danger of being overwhelmed by thousands of Uzbeks.

Kirghizia, which borders on Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, has a population of just over four million, of whom half are Kirghiz, a quarter Russian and around 15 per cent Uzbek.

Reports from Tashkent said that interior ministry troops had sealed off the border between Kirghizia and Uzbekistan in an attempt to keep the people of the two republics apart.

Mr Bakatin proposed an immediate declaration by all 15 Soviet republics guaranteeing the rights of ethnic minorities.

Chingiz Aitmatov, the noted Kirghiz author and member of Mr Gorbachov's Presidential Council, issued a statement urging Kirghiz and Uzbeks to restore order and remain calm.

Last night Tass said that, despite such appeals and the presence of armoured cars in Osh, disturbances were continuing sporadically and rioters were still looting shops.

Troops had taken over shops and warehouses to distribute food.

Meanwhile, Uzbekistan, whose Prime Minister, Mr Shukurullah Mirsaidov, appealed on television for calm, yesterday joined the growing list of republics demanding independence from Moscow.

A meeting of the Uzbek Communist Party declared that only "political and economic sovereignty" could solve the republic's economic crisis.

Wallenberg may be still alive

Copenhagen — The evidence that Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Jews from the Nazis, did not die in 1947 as Moscow claims, is incontrovertible, according to an international commission of inquiry.

In a report released here yesterday it said the evidence was "credible" that he was alive in the 1970s and 1980s, and called on Moscow to release him if still alive. (AFP)

EC's Burma call

Bangkok — The European Community has called on the Burmese Army to hand over power "without delay" to the victorious opposition and to release political prisoners.

It seems sure that the turnout in the Polish council elections would have been even lower than 42 per cent if Western money had been barred. Solidarity was helped by fundraisers in New York, Chicago and Canada.

"The trick is to get a correct balance between local support, foreign funds and party-owned businesses such as newspapers or publishing houses," said a weary Western adviser in the \$140-a-night Sheraton Hotel in Sofia. "A fledgling democracy must not become over-dependent on Western help — that just erodes sovereignty and fuels nationalism."

Cash is key to victory in East Europe's war of the ballot box

From ROGER BOYES IN SOFIA

THE ballot-box war against communism in East Europe is being fought with Western razzmatazz — colourful stickers, giveaway T-shirts, and video clips starring lipping children and square-chinned, honest-looking adults.

But the campaigning, and the whole shift to a multi-party system, is proving expensive and dangerous. As more and more new groups rise up and then collapse at the polls, it is becoming clear that party financing is one of the most pressing problems of the new democracies in the East.

The headquarters of the Bulgarian opposition, the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), is a creaking, grimy six-storey building, draped in blue, on Rakovski Street here. Music blares out and student volunteers bustle up and down the staircases, as do Western donors with briefcases full of dollars. Mr Stefan Tashov of the UDF says: "We do not accept any contributions with strings attached. That would be impermissible."

The communist party, now called the Socialists, and the UDF agreed informally not to accept foreign assistance.

But the reality is that the communists have almost unlimited access to hard currency because the party has been rewarded with the state structure since the war. "Dollars buy photocopiers, and faxes — without them we cannot run a modern campaign," remarks Mr Tashov, a campaign organizer.

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The sense of competition fostered by high-profile campaigning simply did not emerge.

The first step after the revolutions of 1989 was to pronounce communism dead at the ballot box: that was the effect of the Polish elections in June 1989 and this year's East German, Hungarian and

Czechoslovak elections. In general it was enough to form an anti-communist front, or in Romania's case an anti-Ceausescu coalition.

But some of these groups are cracking up — the Bulgarian UDF almost collapsed before the elections. Solidarity is splitting painfully into centre-right and centre-left factions, while the Czechoslovak Civil Forum is also undergoing an upheaval.

The parties that are emerging from these broken shells must now present alternatives to people who for 45 years have grown up with no-choice politics. That requires access to television — a right won by most East European parties — but, above all, money. The old communist parties may have lost their monopoly on power but still command assets — buildings and office space, car fleets and printing presses. Opposition groups are struggling for a slice of these riches.

The East German Parliament last month passed a law seizing any ill-gotten assets of the communist party. In Poland, there has been much legal detective work to discover whether the

communists do really own the deeds of their various properties; the communist-controlled press monopoly, its main money-spinner, has indeed been broken up.

Money buys votes in the Balkans. In a tiny village 50 miles outside Sofia yesterday, the communist-dominated town council was giving out free blankets to old-age pensioners. In other communities, teenagers are being given beer money to rip down UDF posters.

New anti-communist parties are dependent on electoral laws that allocate limited government funds to each of them. The Romanian National Salvation Front assigned 200,000 lei (about £5,900) to each of its rivals. This was obviously not enough, and the Agrarian and Liberal parties resented the hand-out. The leaders of these two parties were millionaires who had made their fortunes in the West. They largely financed the campaign themselves but were unable to make much headway against Mr Ion Iliescu, who picked up 86 per cent of the presidential ballot.

One opposition candidate in Bulgaria, Mr Venceslas Dimitrov, an economics

expert for the UDF, complains: "There were 1,000 posters advertising my candidature in my constituency and they were pulled down overnight. Now I have to pay out of my own pocket for new ones to be printed."

The UDF posters are chiefly printed on paper donated by the West (a British-based millionaire) and some of the basic printing was carried out by Solidarity presses in Poland. Sofia and Prague are awash with Western donors: the National Republican Institute, Democracy Watch, Free Elections, and many others.

UDF organizers say that the cash, though welcome, can never be enough to compete with the communists' wealth. What the UDF does have is a legion of Western advisers, most of them working free. Jacques Segala, who helps orchestrate President Mitterrand's campaigns, has been showing the UDF how to put together television advertisements and market the party — hence the distinctive blue stickers and gifts distributed in the main cities.

The communists have hit back with badges depicting a cheeky-looking cartoon character dressed in red. These are

much sought after by children; not bad for a party linked to political murders over the past 40 years.

Western cash can be a poisonous gift. There is much loose talk in Sofia of the US Central Intelligence Agency. The UDF hierarchy is quarrelling about how much of the donated cash each of its constituent parties should be allocated. The opposition party will not allow another opposition party — sharing the same office — to use its photocopier without payment.

It seems sure that the turnout in the Polish council elections would have been even lower than 42 per cent if Western money had been barred. Solidarity was helped by fundraisers in New York, Chicago and Canada.

"The trick is to get a correct balance between local support, foreign funds and party-owned businesses such as newspapers or publishing houses," said a weary Western adviser in the \$140-a-night Sheraton Hotel in Sofia. "A fledgling democracy must not become over-dependent on Western help — that just erodes sovereignty and fuels nationalism."

Mr Bakatin: Idiotry, red tape and conceit blamed



Mr Bakatin: Idiotry, red tape and conceit blamed

Agency to
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RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW
A struggle
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Czechoslovak poll marred by disputes in democratic camp

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN PRAGUE

CZECHS and Slovaks vote today and tomorrow in their first free elections for 42 years. Given the strong pre-war democratic traditions of the Czech crown lands, these are set to be the least controversial of this year's elections in Eastern Europe.

Not that the 20-odd parties in the contest have been averse to the occasional well-timed accusation to discredit an opponent. Even Civic Forum, President Havel's "moral" umbrella organization, felt constrained on Wednesday night to deliver a parting shot at his Christian Democrat rivals by arranging for state television to do down Mr Josef Bartoncik, the chairman of the People's Party which is in coalition with the Christian Democrats.

Mr Bartoncik has long been the subject of allegations linking him with the secret police. The allegations have also been directed at Mr Richard Sacher, the Interior Minister, but the timing of Wednesday night's accusations left few Czechs in any doubt that Civic Forum is keen to enjoy outright power after the elections, without the help of any other parties.

Dr Irena Pankova, for many years a Roman Catholic activist, said: "It is a great mistake. The Forum should realize that Czechoslovakia today needs consensus."

"Only if it works with the other major opposition party, the Christian Democrats, can it stop the Communists, who are still very powerful, from

exploiting these weaknesses." The Forum government also appears to see nothing wrong in its faintly sharp practice of finally deciding to detain ousted Communist chiefs on the eve of the elections.

Initially, the Forum proposed working only as an interim government after seizing power last November. Now the organization appears determined to rule the country at least until elections in 1992.

Its chief rival, the Christian Democrats, are weak in Bohemia, where they are expected to gain between 12 and 15 per cent of the vote, but powerful in Slovakia, where they might, despite the Forum's latest manoeuvres, win a majority.

Also almost certain to be represented in the new Par-

liament is the Communist Party which, under Mr Vasil Mohrta, is resigned to two years of the lowest of low profiles.

In contrast to other Central European communist parties, the Czechoslovak Communists have refrained from changing their name. The present party will reform its ideology, regroup on a smaller basis and sit back while the antagonisms between the Czech Civic Forum and the Slovak Christian Democrats envelop political life.

These rifts cannot be ignored. At a Forum rally earlier this week in the Slovak capital, Bratislava, spectators came to blows when Mr Havel appeared in an attempt to defend the Forum's position.

'Spy' slur may deprive coalition of top post

FROM PETER GREEN IN PRAGUE

ALLEGATIONS against Mr Josef Bartoncik, the chairman of the People's Party, a key Christian Democrat partner, that he was a long-time secret police informer threaten to sink any chance the Christian Democrats may have of winning the Prime Minister's office.

Mr Jan Carnogursky, the Deputy Prime Minister and a leading candidate for the post, said the allegations should not have been made on the eve of

the election. "It could influence the election results in the Czech republic. If the Christian parties do not have a strong enough position in parliament and government I would not be willing to serve as Prime Minister."

As a Slovak and Christian, Mr Carnogursky, who leads the Slovak Christian Democrat Movement, would be a logical choice, with President Havel, a Czech, and allied to Civic Forum.



Salome Anderson, daughter of Beirut hostage Terry Anderson, on her fifth birthday yesterday as Beirut papers carried a message from her to the father she has never seen

Walesa seen as 'dictatorial' in Solidarity row

FROM REUTER IN WARSAW

A SOLIDARITY ideologist yesterday accused Mr Lech Walesa of acting dictatorially and said that his supporters were trying to destabilize the Solidarity-led Government to get him elected President of Poland.

Mr Adam Michnik, whom Mr Walesa tried to dismiss as editor of the Solidarity newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*, accused the movement's leader of arrogance in attacking him and others who oppose his attempt to win the presidency.

"From the leader of Solidarity, a mass movement of Polish democracy, you are slowly changing into a Caesar," Mr Michnik said in an unprecedented public criticism of Mr Walesa.

He made the remark in an exchange of letters between the two men published by *Gazeta Wyborcza*, a mass circulation daily.

Mr Michnik said that the real dispute with Mr Walesa was over changes in Poland's political landscape — an apparent reference to the break-up of Solidarity as a broad political movement.

It also involved "persistent destabilization attempts by supporters of an idea for the existing parliament to elect Lech Walesa President in the autumn", Mr Michnik added.

Mr Walesa and his supporters want the first fully democratic parliamentary and presidential elections in Poland since the Second World War to be held in the autumn. The Government of Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Prime Minister, says that it needs time to push through its programme of economic reforms and that

it plans to hold the elections next spring.

In the first sign that opponents of Mr Walesa might back off from an all-out clash, Mr Michnik said that the Solidarity leader had a good chance of becoming President with the backing of his former allies, on condition that he was President of a democratic Poland and did not become "monarch of a post-communist empire".

Mr Walesa stepped up his attack on Mr Mazowiecki and his supporters, accusing them of halting democratization, delaying elections and clinging to power without a popular mandate. He said that his former friends in the Government should have launched a "terrific democratic process" after the communist party's dissolution in January instead of maintaining structures with no popular mandate.

"The whole political set-up which I built has been stopped and it has stopped at a very useful place for itself, which frightens me," Mr Walesa said.

"I am unhappy about it and I want to shake it up. I am sorry these people are my friends, but friends, you have sat down on your seats and you are sitting there, and there is no movement forward."

He accused them of seeking to serve their own interests in maintaining political structures agreed with the communists last year, under which General Wojciech Jaruzelski, a long-time communist, is President and former communists and their allies hold 65 per cent of the seats in Parliament.

Jackson calls on Barry to resign

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THE Rev Jesse Jackson has called on Mr Marion Barry, the Mayor of Washington, to resign and so remove the chief cause of the "persecution and prosecution".

As Mr Barry's drugs and perjury trial entered its fourth day of controversial jury selection, Mr Jackson, who was once seen as a potential successor to the Mayor, said that "a candid statement of his plans would be a major step towards creating a climate for a settlement".

The move is seen as an important indicator that Mr Barry's radical black power base might prefer him to make a plea bargain than to fight a trial in which the community's dirtiest political linen would be lengthily and publicly aired. So far, however, the Mayor has refused any bargain which would depend on his admitting a "felony offence". A guilty plea to perjury, for example, could send him to prison and out of the political scene.

The prosecutors yesterday continued with their preparations for what looks set to be a uniquely political courtroom battle. Among other matters, they grappled with the problem of how to refer to the Mayor in court — as "the defendant" or, in deference to the special status of the politician who for 12 years has ruled the nation's capital, as "Mr Barry".

Yesterday Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson complained that the questioning of potential jurors was "way, way behind schedule". He has restricted lawyers on both sides to five minutes only for questions about jurors' attitudes to the case.

A key demand is whether a juror would be able to reject a suggestion from another juror that "you disregard the law of evidence, and decide the case on other grounds".

The prosecuting lawyers will challenge any juror who openly proclaims his preference for politics over evidence. But they are not confident that the question will be answered truthfully.

Only a month ago it appeared that Mayor Barry's much-respected lawyer, Mr R. Kenneth Mundy, could rely heavily on a so-called "entrapment" defence. The principle charge at that time arose from the "sitting" operation in January, in which Mr Barry was lured to the Vista Hotel by a former girlfriend and offered FBI "crack", while FBI video cameras rolled to record the crime.

Mr Mundy might have argued that Mr Barry had no predisposition to smoke "crack", and had done so only under pressure. It was rumoured that the video-recording revealed the girlfriend as taunting Mr Barry as a "chicken" for his initial reluctance to use the drug.

Since then, however, the prosecutors have filed additional charges relating to separate use of drugs over a number of years. Although these charges stem chiefly

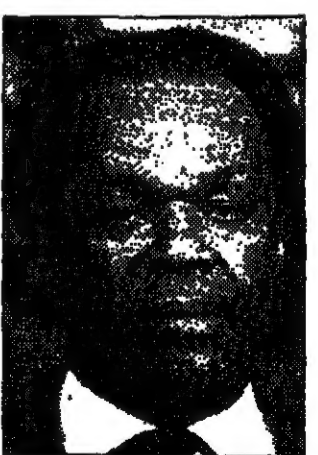
from the evidence of associates whose credibility is weakened by their being granted immunity from prosecution, enough mud may stick to make an entrapment defence very difficult.

It is widely believed in Washington that Mr Barry, while maybe not a fully dependent drug addict, did certainly have a predisposition to use drugs. To suggest otherwise may strain even a friendly jury's patience.

Mr Barry has accused his opponents of leaking a copy of the tape to a local television station. The prosecution yesterday accused the defence of trying to "infect" the jury by the charge of leaking the tape.

Some local reporters think it more likely that the Barry camp would leak the tape, itself, hoping that prior publication might weaken its impact or even rule it out as evidence.

Both sides have experts on hand in the newly fashionable legal science of videotape analysis. It is not uncommon for the poor quality of secret recordings to allow legal dispute about the precise words used, their meaning in the particular context, and the editing or enhancement to



Mr Barry: Accusations over 'leaked' videotape

which the tape may have been subject after the events took place.

The "chicken" may be just such a disputed item. When Mr Barry describes himself as "good" he is referring to his abstinence from drugs or from extra-marital sex? The jury will have to decide.

The defence lawyers have also considered a defence based on the Mayor's admitted alcoholism. During his currently much-publicized treatment programmes, he has never admitted cocaine addiction.

But an alcoholism defence could require the opening of medical records. There would be too great a danger, the defence seems to have decided, that these might reveal drug-related dependency, too.

Nor would proof of his alcoholism necessarily be sufficient for a defence of diminished responsibility in respect of the other charges. The best hope would be to argue that when he allegedly perjured himself before a grand jury in 1978, his responsibility was reduced by alcohol.

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WHAT NATIONAL
SAVINGS ARE
UP TO.**

Californians' vote may sound retreat for US tax revolt

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

CALIFORNIA, the state that sparked America's anti-tax revolt a dozen years ago, took a step this week that has politicians and analysts humming with excitement and talking of a watershed. It voted for tax increases.

By the narrowest of margins Californians supported a measure to double the tax on petrol to pay for radical improvements in transportation. The same measure permits the relaxation of strict controls on state spending which the same electorate imposed in 1988.

Some argue that the vote has little wider relevance; others that it signals that voters are now prepared to support tightly targeted tax increases to meet specific, urgent needs. But many contend that it foreshadows the end of the decade-long Reagan era during which talk of raising taxes, however unbalanced the budget and desperate the need for revenue, was political suicide.

Certainly the vote could not

have been more timely. The White House and Congress are resuming negotiations in Washington on how to slash a ballooning budget deficit forecast of about \$200 billion (£119 billion) next year.

The vote will double California's petrol tax from 9 cents to 18 cents a gallon over a five-year period, generating revenues of \$18.5 billion over a decade to be spent on highway improvements and new mass transit systems. The extra annual cost to an average motorist, who presently pays around \$1.12 a gallon, will be \$60.

Dr Arthur Laffer, the conservative Californian economist whose 1970s supply-side theories inspired subsequent Reagan budgets, said: "It really does end the tax revolt and sends a signal to Washington which I dislike intensely. If California gives up on the tax revolt, can Washington be far behind?"

Mr Larry McCarthy, president of the National Taxpayers' Union, said the vote

merely showed that Californians were sick of sitting in traffic jams. "To suggest that this signals the end of the tax revolt is totally erroneous," Democrats in Washington were quick to interpret the California vote.

Senator James Sasser, chairman of the Senate budget committee, said it shows that voters will now swallow tax increases when they are "absolutely necessary". Mr Thomas Foley, the House Speaker, observed: "The tax revolt, which allegedly started in California, has been tempered by the realization that we have to make investments in the country."

First black: Mr Harvey Gantt this week became the first black person to be nominated for a statewide race in North Carolina in more than a century. He comfortably won a Democratic runoff and will challenge for the Senate seat of Mr Jesse Helms, the right-wing incumbent. Mr Gantt would need about 40 per cent of the white vote to win.



First stop: Mr Nelson Mandela and his wife, Winnie, being greeted by M Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris, at the Hôtel de Ville yesterday as the deputy president of the African National Congress began a six-week, 13-nation tour of Europe, North America and Africa

US claims China aiding Libyan poison gas plans

FROM MICHAEL GORDON OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, IN WASHINGTON

CHINA, according to intelligence reports, is considering the sale to Libya of chemicals that can be used to make poison gas, officials of President Bush's Administration said here. They said that after it was learnt that representatives of Chinese companies and Libyan officials were negotiating the sale, the Administration asked the Chinese Government not to go ahead with it.

Such a sale, the officials said, would violate China's express commitment not to encourage the spread of poison gas to the Middle East. Libya's chemical weapons

programme has been a serious worry for the United States. Administration officials said in March that a fire that month at Libya's chemical weapons factory at Rabta might have been a hoax engineered by Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader. The CIA has detected recent activity at the complex but no proof that it is back in operation.

Washington's new concerns emerged on Wednesday when a senior State Department official testified before the Senate foreign relations committee on the Administration's policy towards China. Under sharp questioning by

Senator Joseph Biden Jr, a Democrat, Mr Richard Solomon, the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, indicated that the Administration was concerned about the possible export of chemical weapon ingredients by China to the Middle East, but declined to elaborate.

"We've got some indications that something may be going on in that area, and we have expressed our concerns to them (China) at a very high level," Mr Solomon said.

Another Administration official said the American Embassy in Beijing was instructed several days ago to ask the Chinese not to sell key poison gas ingredients to Libya.

America's latest concerns have raised new questions about the Administration's conciliatory policy towards Peking. The Administration recently decided to extend most favoured nation trading status to China and has also maintained high-level diplomatic contacts despite the continued repression practised there.

At the Senate hearing, Mr Biden complained that the Administration's policy towards China had been a failure. "You certainly can't defend China on trade; you can't begin to defend them on human rights; you can't begin to defend them on their handling of the situation since Tiananmen Square," he said, going on to question whether China was being responsive to American concerns over the spread of missiles, poison gas and nuclear weapons.

In response, Mr Ket Wiedeman, the director of the State Department's office of Chinese and Mongolian affairs and one of Mr Solomon's aides, said that China had promised not to sell M9 missiles to Syria and had offered a more general assurance not to sell medium-range missiles to the Middle East.

Mr Wiedeman said the Administration was still trying to get China to accept an internationally agreed definition of medium-range missiles. Such a definition is contained in export guidelines agreed by Western nations and was confirmed in a US-Soviet joint statement on combating the spread of missiles, poison gas and nuclear weapons issued after last week's summit.

Administration specialists emphasized that, although there was evidence that China and Libya had been negotiating the sale of poison gas ingredients, there was no proof that contracts had been signed or that the ingredients had been shipped to Libya.

Herzog tries to end the deadlock

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

IN AN effort to break Israel's political impasse, President Herzog yesterday called on the leaders of the main parties to meet to form an emergency coalition government.

Mr Shimon Peres, head of the Labour Party, accepted the invitation, but there was no response from the office of the Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, who heads the right-wing Likud bloc.

The appeal from the President came as Mr Shamir struggled to form a new government by this week, which is when his mandate runs out.

The Israeli political system has been in near-chaos since March 15, when the Likud-Labour coalition government collapsed over disagreements on how to proceed with the Middle East peace process.

Mr Shamir has been trying since April 27 to construct a narrow coalition that would include the 40 seats in his Likud bloc and more than 20 from ultra-religious and right-wing nationalist parties.

Negotiations have not so far resulted in a single agreement being signed with any of the seven small parties, though six have committed themselves to supporting Mr Shamir.

However, representatives in both the main parties acknowledged that "quiet" talks were still under way to determine if Labour and Likud could find common ground for a new coalition.

The impasse has spurred calls for electoral reform that could lead to direct election of a prime minister. The Hebrew-language daily *Maariv* said in an editorial this week that the main parties must put partisan considerations aside.

"If not," the newspaper said, "the really important issues will be pushed aside because of the calculations of marginal groups."

■ **Soldier sentenced:** An Israeli military court has sentenced a sergeant to four months of army work detail for killing a Palestinian during a raid on an occupied West Bank village last year, an army spokesman said yesterday.

He said that Yosef Eliahu violated the Army's instructions to improve relations with Britain have aroused opposition from hardliners.

It is understood that the two sides have since made encouraging gestures to each other. They are engaged in a diplomatic dance, conducted mainly through surrogates.

While the positive developments remain unseen, neg-

North Korea denounces 'traitorous' Gorbachov

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

LOSING friends as quickly as Moscow seems to be making them, North Korea yesterday lashed out at one of its few remaining allies when it denounced the "unpardonable, traitorous" bargaining between President Gorbachov and President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea.

The attack against the Soviet leader by Pyongyang, barely imaginable even a few months ago, follows the historic meeting in San Francisco on Monday between President Gorbachov and Mr Roh, who is the one more used to insults from his northern neighbour.

It is probably Mr Roh's surest sign yet of how rapidly his relations with the communist world in general, and the Soviet Union in particular, are warming and

how successful he has been in promising Seoul's cash as bait for diplomatic recognition.

Working through all the clichés in the Cold War lexicon, North Korea's state news agency said yesterday that "all facts prove that the talks between Roh Tae Woo and Gorbachov... were an unpardonable, traitorous bargaining" and it bitterly denounced the Roh Tae Woo group's "humiliating, submissive and traitorous trip, which has put the existence of the nation and the future destiny of the country in danger".

The agency, monitored in Tokyo, said: "Yesterday the traitor Roh called at the imperial house of Japan, the old enemy of our nation, and made a bow and today went to the United States to make a

salutation to it and bow on his knees even to the Soviet Union. Our people cannot but have a doubt about the attitude of the Kremlin which set face-to-face with such a dictator."

Although the Soviet Union remains North Korea's main supplier of aid and arms, Pyongyang's ageing and recalcitrant leader, Mr Kim Il Sung, seems to have run out of patience with Moscow and its descent into détente.

His attack on Mr Gorbachov emphasizes his isolation. Mr Kim has never really recovered from the bloody downfall last December of Nicolas Ceausescu, who ruled Romania in the sort of style that Mr Kim admires. He was stung when less hardline Eastern European nations ignored his call to boycott the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

While Japan's relations with the Soviet Union are still frosty because of rival claims to a string of small islands off northern Japan, Seoul has exploited the opportunity to woo the cash-starved and investment-hungry Eastern bloc. The aim of this diplomacy is to drive a wedge between Pyongyang and Moscow that might speed up the reunification of the Korean peninsula.

That has long been the goal of every South Korean leader. But while his Government's popularity is crumbling at home because of economic problems and labour unrest, the chance of being the man to succeed is even more attractive to Mr Roh. He may take Pyongyang's outburst as another milestone passed.

In Kuala Lumpur, the visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Igor Rogachev, said that Moscow would not abandon Pyongyang. "North Korea is our friend... is our ally, and we shall be loyal to our obligations," Mr Rogachev told reporters when he arrived for a two-day visit to Malaysia.

"When we undertake any actions in north-east Asia, of course we will take into consideration the legal interests of North Korea," he said. Mr Rogachev said that it was now time to ease tension in the Korean peninsula and that Moscow would back all initiatives to reunite the two Koreas. Mr Rogachev said that no decision on setting up ties with South Korea had been made, but this could not be ruled out.

Moscow and Seoul had "developed a rather good co-operation in the economic sphere and this provides us with a good, solid base for something more in the future".

Punjab hit by Sikh attacks

Delhi - Sikh militants firing rocket grenades, light machine-guns, AK-47 assault rifles and other automatic weapons launched a wave of attacks on guardposts and bombed railway lines in the northern state of Punjab to protest against the Indian Army's raid on the Golden Temple at Amritsar in 1984.

Three paramilitary troops died and four were wounded in the attacks on six police stations and paramilitary posts, and the bomb blasts cut rail links, the Press Trust of India said. (AP)

Three paramilitary troops died and four were wounded in the attacks on six police stations and paramilitary posts, and the bomb blasts cut rail links, the Press Trust of India said. (AP)

Lima car bomb

Lima - Maoist Shining Path rebels in Peru exploded a car bomb near the Government Palace, the second blast in central Lima in 24 hours. Police said the attacks signalled an offensive linked to the weekend's presidential elections. (AP)

Police rescue

Dhaka - A police squad rescued 40 Bangladeshis, including eight women and 20 children, from two traffickers trying to smuggle them into India, probably to work as servants or prostitutes. The traffickers escaped. (Reuters)

Sudan air raid

Nairobi - Two aircraft bombed the southern Sudanese town of Torit, held by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, killing 20 people. (Reuters)

Fishermen lost

Tokyo - Eleven Japanese fishermen were missing and four were rescued after their boat collided with a 10,986-tonne Norwegian freighter and sank. (AP)

Rebel victim

Colombo - A Sri Lankan army corporal was shot dead and 10 others injured when rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam opened fire on an army patrol at Vavuniya in the island's Northern province.

Britons arrested

Lyon - French police arrested five Britons here for allegedly transporting a tonne of Moroccan hashish in their caravan. The five were not identified. (AFP)

Tornado strikes

Lima - A tornado tore through this farming community in Colorado and devastated a trailer park, injuring at least a dozen people. (AP)

Nasser's son back in Cairo with his father's ghost

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO



Mr Nasser: Accused of plotting to kill diplomats

TWENTY years after his death, the ghost of Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt's charismatic first President, came back to haunt his successors yesterday when his eldest son appeared before a heavily guarded, high-security court on terrorism charges for which the prosecution has demanded the death penalty.

The trial is the most politically sensitive in recent Egyptian history, with serious implications for the Arab-Israeli conflict. Two senior government ministers have already appeared as witnesses and President Mubarak, while regretting the involvement of Nasser's son, had pledged that he will not receive special treatment.

Despite the promise, Mr Khaled Abdel Nasser, an engineer aged 40,

who returned unannounced from self-exile in Yugoslavia on Wednesday night, was freed on bail of only 5,000 Egyptian pounds (£1,070) after pleading not guilty.

The prosecution opposed the bail application, arguing that Mr Nasser was being granted favourable treatment by the court.

But his lawyer, Mr Ahmed Khawaga, stated that the accused had returned to Egypt of his own free will. "His home address is known in Egypt. We know his profession (and) I do not think... he will escape," the lawyer added.

A relaxed, grey-suited Mr Nasser replied "not guilty, it did not happen" when asked to enter a plea to charges that, as a member of the group calling itself "Egypt's Revolution", he had plotted to kill American and Israeli diplomats in Cairo between 1984 and

1987. In the months that Mr Nasser was being tried in absentia the proceedings took on increasingly political overtones as the defence sought to challenge Egypt's policy of tilting towards the United States, from which it receives annual aid of some US\$2.3 billion (£1.4 billion) and maintaining the 1979 peace treaty with Israel. One defending advocate described an Israeli observer, allowed into the court early in the hearing, as "an Israeli dog".

Mr Nasser, accompanied by his wife, Dalila, and two children, arrived unexpectedly at Cairo airport on Wednesday evening and turned himself over to a surprised group of passport officers. He spent the night in a holding cell before being driven to court in a private car, unlike the other defendants who went in a convoy of police wagons. An airport security

officer later told reporters: "Khaled was very calm and said 'I have come to give myself up and stand trial to prove my innocence to the Egyptian people'."

Mr Nasser, renowned for his close links with Libya, is also regarded as something of a hero by the Palestine Liberation Organization, which invited him as star guest to the historic meeting of its parliament-in-exile in Algiers in November, 1988, at a time when he was already being described as Egypt's most wanted fugitive.

"It is hard to see how the shaky Government of President Mubarak with such wide popular appeal as Nasser's eldest son," a Western security official said. "The peace treaty with Israel is not stable or popular enough to carry a martyr with a name like that."

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VS 3	Ch. Pomerol-Castel (Pomerol)	1986 131.40 109	VS 19	Vollrath Kiedrich Riesling (A. Kiedrich) Q.M.R. Mosel	1987 65.88 54
VS 4	Ch. Nenin (Pomerol)	1986 143.40 120	VS 20	Tavel Rose 'La Forcadine' (Domaine Maby) Rhône	1988 67.80 57
VS 5	Ch. Calone-Ségur (St. Estèphe)	1986 169.80 140	VS 21	Sancerre 'Les Mares' (Cave des Vins de Sancerre, Loire valley)	1989 90.00 75
VS 6	Ch. Léoville-Poyferré (St. Julien)	1986 178.20 148	VS 22	Château de la Roche (Domaine Mont-Rodou, red Rhône)	1986/7 105.00 82
VS 7	Ch. La Farge (Légasse, Graves)	1986 100.20 78	VS 23	Floirier Cru 'Les Hermines' (Domaine Bard, red Burgundy)	1985 138.00 115
VS 8	Ch. Chateau Pichon (Graves)	1985 102.00 80	VS 24	Chablis Grand Cru 'Les Clos' (Domaine Jean Moreau, white Burgundy)	1986 204.00 175
VS 9	Ch. Lalonde Borie (Lisac)	1985 150.00 125	VS 25	Ch. Lafaurie-Peyraguey (white Burgundy, Domaine Cordier, Sauternes)	1987 216.00 195
VS 10	Ch. Corbin-Michotte (St. Emilion)	1985 159.00 130			
VS 11	Ch. Pichon (St. Emilion)	1983 118.20 95			
VS 12	Ch. Carone-St-Gemine (St. Laurent, Haut-Médoc)	1983 123.00 98			
VS 13	Ch. La Tour-Saint-Jean (St. Christophe, Médoc)	1982 114.00 90			
VS 14	Ch. Larose-Tintaudon (St. Laurent, Haut-Médoc)	1982 133.00 115			
VS 15	Ch. Faurès Dupré (Lisac, Graves)	1981 144.00 122			
VS 16	Ch. Boucaut (Cadaillac, Graves)	1981 150.00 128			

OTHER OFFERS

VS 17	Hattenheimer Deutscher Riesling Kabinett (Wengert Hans Lang) Q.M.R. Rheingau	1986 59.40 48
VS 18	Piesporter Gutesleben Riesling Kabinett (Ulrich Langguth) Q.M.R. Mosel	1986 59.40 49
VS 19	Vollrath Kiedrich Riesling (A. Kiedrich) Q.M.R. Mosel	1987 65.88 54
VS 20	Tavel Rose 'La Forcadine' (Domaine Maby) Rhône	1988 67.80 57
VS 21	Sancerre 'Les Mares' (Cave des Vins de Sancerre, Loire valley)	1989 90.00 75
VS 22	Château de la Roche (Domaine Mont-Rodou, red Rhône)	1986/7 105.00 82
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Great posers of our time

Philip Howard

It is a paradox that the English are giving up eating the roast beef of old England for fear of catching spongy-brain disease. How could the Rosbifs tell the difference, since their brains are *evidently* spongy to start with anyway? No, it is not a paradox. It is a bad racist joke from French *bla-bla* blat or gutter tabloid. It shows that the sloppy use of "paradox" to draw attention to what one is saying is a journalistic vice on both sides of the Channel. Paradox is one of those words that journalists let off like a firework, to make a bang more than to illuminate. What these words mean is usually no more than "it is a rum thing that", or "wake up there at the back of the class, this is going to be a joke". If you have to signal a joke by sending up a rocket, it cannot be a very good joke. Even journals, those peacocks of prose, are dimly aware that others may not read our work with the loving attention that we devote to our cuttings-books. So we try to impress our readers by the use of fireworks like "paradoxically". Readers see through the artifice.

Paradox is one of the oldest technical terms in the world. It has a precise meaning, literally "against belief". It was introduced into western vocabulary 25 centuries ago by the first sophists. Socrates, scripted by Plato, made paradox one of his main tools to confound his opponents. They found themselves believing two or more contradictory things, up to their noses in the moussaka without a spoon. Here is the old tease at work with paradox: "If a person shows that such things as wood, stones, and the like, being many are also one, we admit that he shows the coexistence of the one and many, but he does not show that the many are one or the one many; he is uttering not a paradox but a truism." Quite enough of that, dear boy.

In the strict sense, a paradox is a statement or phenomenon apparently inconsistent with itself (or with what is theoretically reasonable). Full-blooded paradoxes exist when some statement needed for logic can apparently be both proved and disproved. Some of the wide-boys of early philosophy made a living entirely by paradoxes, to bewilder their audiences in the way that Victorian conjurers did. Epimenides from Crete had a success that is still with us with his "liar paradox": "All Cretans are liars." The statement "I am lying" is true only if it is false, and false if it is true. Bertrand Russell made use of the old Cretan's liar paradox to show that certain formulations of words, though grammatically correct, are logically nonsense.

Zeno of Elea, the modern Castellanman of Bracco on the Tyrrhenian coast of southern Italy, was another wide-boy who made a good living from paradoxes, some of which survive.

You remember the Achilles and the tortoise paradox? Swift-footed Achilles, the fastest sprinter of antiquity, is challenged to a race by a tortoise. He gives the tortoise a start, but then finds that he can never overtake it. By the time that Achilles has charged up to the place where the tortoise started from, old Slow-and-Steady has plodded on for a short distance. When Achilles, shouting and sweating, has covered that short distance, the tortoise has moved some more. The argument can be repeated indefinitely. Although the successive stages become shorter, and are covered ever more quickly, at the end of any given stage Achilles is still behind the tortoise. How can he reach the end of an endless series of stages? So Achilles never overtakes the tortoise. (Note, however, that the tortoise never crosses the finishing line, unless it has been placed by a handicapper more judicious than such useless officials generally are.)

Other golden oldies of Zeno are the flying arrow paradox, which argues that, since at any moment an arrow occupies a definite position, and since between two moments there is nothing but other moments, the arrow can never move from one to another. A paradox, a paradox, a most ingenious paradox. W.S. Gilbert, a careful writer, used paradox in a reasonably philosophical sense. Frederic, although aged 21, turns out to be only five when counting birthdays, because he was born on February 29.

Zeno's grain of millet paradox argues that a grain of Grape Nuts falling on the kitchen floor makes no sound, but a thousand Grape Nuts (funny name, when you think about it) make a definite sound, followed shortly by shouts of grief and rage, so a thousand things become a something, which is absurd.

The plain man's way to rebuff these paradoxes is that of bluff Dr Johnson, taking off his cutaway coat, and starting to sprint ponderously: "I refute it (puff puff) thus." (That was an inexact use of "refute".)

Would the world be a better place if run by philosophers? Plato demonstrated devastatingly that it would not when he had a go at running the world from Sicily. But it would be going too far to insist that modern journalists should always use paradox in its precise philosophical sense. It would be going too far for the editor to ban the word in his style guide. Freedom of speech applies to vocabulary as well as to ideas. But an alarm signal should go off whenever we think of using paradox. It is a fine word with a long history. Shakespeare, magnificent hacker, used it in its loose modern sense, pleased with its shiny new word: "You undergo too strict a paradox, / Striving to make an ugly deed look fair."

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

The Kenyan state of emergency notwithstanding, I spent the autumn of 1953 doing the foxtrots. Also waltz and quickstep. Despite the best efforts of the Mau Mau to interfere, my liaison partner and I passed every Friday evening locked in romantic ensemble, dancing across the polished parquet of our elegant Palmers Green trysting-place, and murmuring into one another's ears such little nonsenses as dancers do.

Which, by the by, is how I first met Humphrey Lyttelton and Wally Fawkes. Lyttelton, polymaths whom years later, I was to employ in their other capacities, and so happily that nobody would ever have realized that one of them had once told me what he proposed to do with his clarinet if I ever again interrupted a performance of Trog's Blues, nor that the other had ribaldly added that it was the duty of the brass to accompany the woodwind, wherever it chose to blow. I met them because this lurid offer was made in the rehearsal chamber directly above our little ballroom, connected to it by a staircase up which my partner had just dispatched me.

"You tell them buggers we can't hear ourselves dance," my partner had said. "You inform 'em there is nothing in the book says musicians has to bang their feet on the floor all the bloody time."

No sooner had I scuttled down again than the band struck up its revenge. King Porter Stomp rattled the cased. Plaster settled on our waltzing shoulders, like eau-de-Nil scurf. My partner said "right", lifted the Dancette arm from the disc, and dashed out. Suddenly, remarkably, the noise above my head faded to a tinny bleat.

"What did you say?" I inquired, as, blissfully reunited, we floated through Charnaine.

"Nothing," said my partner, reversing sleekly, "I just give 'em a look."

rock and a tell-tale way of easing his shoulders suggested that Mr Ronga considered it even more blessed to give than to receive.

He had been a sergeant in the Parachute Regiment; but, despite his heroic service to King and country, neither would let him kill anybody after VJ day, so he chucked in the beret and set himself up as a dance instructor. My mother found him in *The Palmers Green Gazette*. I was 15, and it was time I learned to dance. I would thank her one day.

I enrolled for the bronze medal course. If successful, I might be allowed to enrol in the silver, and learn the tango. Not the rumba. You had to have a gold medal to do the rumba in public. If you attempted the rumba without a gold medal, Edmundo Ros would send the boys round.

In a moment, you will find out why I am telling you all this. When my first lesson was over, my partner shook his huge head and told me I should have to buck my ideas up, due to where, any day now, it was on the cards the Paraz would be asked to go and sort out Kenya, in which case he might very likely resign. Time was of the wossname. In consequence, we used only three records, all by a Victor Sylvester, so that I could gear my movements by rote to every familiar chord. Furthermore, Mr Ronga would see to it that my feet would not betray me, by touching the ground, except like cricket balls would carry me through. I can feel them still.

The inspector arrived the week before Christmas. He had a briefcase. He took three records out of it. I heard, cheek to cheek, my partner's teeth grind. "The bassist has brought his own music!" he muttered. He dropped me, shimmied across to the inspector, glanced at his labels. "Joe Loss?" he said. "Joe Loss? We don't do Joe Loss here. We do Victor Sylvester."

The inspector opened his mouth; but shut it again. My partner had given him a look. Not only did I get a strict tempo, I also got the medal. I am telling you all this because, just as I was about to tell you something else, I heard that Joe Loss had died, and it all came back.

William Waldegrave replies to Vernon Bogdanor's criticism of Foreign Office policy

How Britain helped the dissidents

Let's plan foreign policy. Thus the enticing headline to Vernon Bogdanor's critique of British foreign policy on this page on Tuesday. I hoped to find the explanation of why the slogan might still be in fashion, unlike "Let's plan the economy" or "Let's plan society".

Alas, as I read the article curiosity turned to a resignation as weary as Mr Bogdanor's prescriptions. What made me choke over my cornflakes, however, was the allegation that in Central and Eastern Europe, Britain had "preferred to restrict diplomatic intercourse to governments", and neglected "regular contacts with dissidents".

Mr Bogdanor's assertion is just false, unfair not only to my ministerial predecessors, but to British embassy staff and a fair cross-section of newly installed ministers in the East.

In Poland in 1984 my predecessor Malcolm Rifkind was the first Western minister to visit the grave of the murdered Father Jerzy Popieluszko, two days after the funeral. His example is still seen in Poland as a pioneering gesture of defiance to the old regime, and it set the standard for a succession of subsequent Western visitors. He also met some of the leading Warsaw-based mem-

bers of Solidarity. They included the present Polish Prime Minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, and one of his new ministers. Embassy staff from the ambassador down were in regular touch with Solidarity activists, including Lech Walesa.

In Czechoslovakia British diplomats saw Charter 77 and other human rights activists throughout the 1980s. My predecessor, Tim Renton, met several in 1987 at the home of Denis Kefc, our second secretary in the Prague embassy. More than 50 Czechoslovak dissidents, including Václav Havel and the present Foreign Minister, Jiri Dienstbier, attended a farewell party for Mr Kefc in early 1988. This March he was invited back to Prague for a party thrown by Charter 77 to celebrate the "velvet revolution".

Also invited was Tricia Holland, a diplomat expelled last year for her contacts with the opposition. Jan Carnogursky had our vigorous support at the time of his last trial, which took place as the revolution began. He went straight from court to become deputy prime minister.

In Hungary, British officials were on close terms with leading members of the opposition for several years before Kadar's fall. Two prominent dissidents were asked to join Sir Geoffrey Howe

for a meal at our embassy in 1987. The senior Communist Party officials there found the occasion uncomfortable, and *The Times* hailed our initiative as testing the limits of Hungarian glasnost.

In Romania Britain's ambassador was manhandled by Ceausescu's Securitate while trying to visit the courageous Doina Cornea at her home in Cluj. In Timisoara, we were there at the start. A British diplomat had a shouted conversation with Pastor (now Bishop) Teokas across a barrier of Securitate men the day before the Romanian revolution began. Several Romanian dissidents have since said that it was only the attention they had from British and other Western embassies that enabled them to survive. In East Germany our ambassador and his staff had close contacts over several years with figures in the Protestant church (then the focus of political opposition), including the present Minister of Disarmament and Defence, but also including many others (Hulsmann, Simon, Passen, Hirsch, Poppe, Pastorin, Misselwitz and so on).

Mr Bogdanor has got it spectacularly wrong. It is equally nonsensical of him to suggest that the Foreign Office assumed that the likes of Czechoslovakia's Husak

enjoyed "substantial indigenous support". The Foreign Office conducted business that needed to be conducted with communist regimes, but pursued a policy of keeping in touch with organized opposition groups and individual dissidents to demonstrate that we did not endorse the claims of their rulers to popular legitimacy. That is why it is so pleasant to travel now in Eastern Europe as a British minister: there is goodwill wherever you go.

From initially shaky premises, Mr Bogdanor accuses the Foreign Office of not foreseeing developments in Central and Eastern Europe. Who did? The dissidents themselves? Tell that to New Forum in the newly obsolescent East Germany. I must have missed all those articles a year or so ago predicting the order and timescale in which the dominoes would fall.

Like it or not, foreign policy is often a matter of reacting to sudden events, but I agree with Mr Bogdanor that broad goals are important. The goal of our policy towards the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the late 1980s was their evolution towards full sovereignty and political and economic freedom. The strategy was to acknowledge their separate identities and relative tolerances

of dissent; to keep up pressure on human rights; to offer moral support and encouragement to those working for democratic change; and to make our values and way of life more widely known.

The strategy is now one of close contact with new democratic governments and support for political and economic reform. The Foreign Office is reassigning people and funds for this. However, we strongly support "conditionality" - relating support to progress made towards freedom. We therefore retain reservations about Romania and Bulgaria.

Nor do I agree that policy-making is as devoid of external inputs as Mr Bogdanor appears to imply. The Foreign Office maintains an extensive range of contacts with academics, journalists and other commentators. Our Policy Planning Staff are in close touch with organizations like the Royal Institute for International Affairs and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. This is not to say that we would not welcome contact with other institutions of the kind Mr Bogdanor suggests. We are happy to take part in a wide-ranging debate, so long as it is well-informed. The author is Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

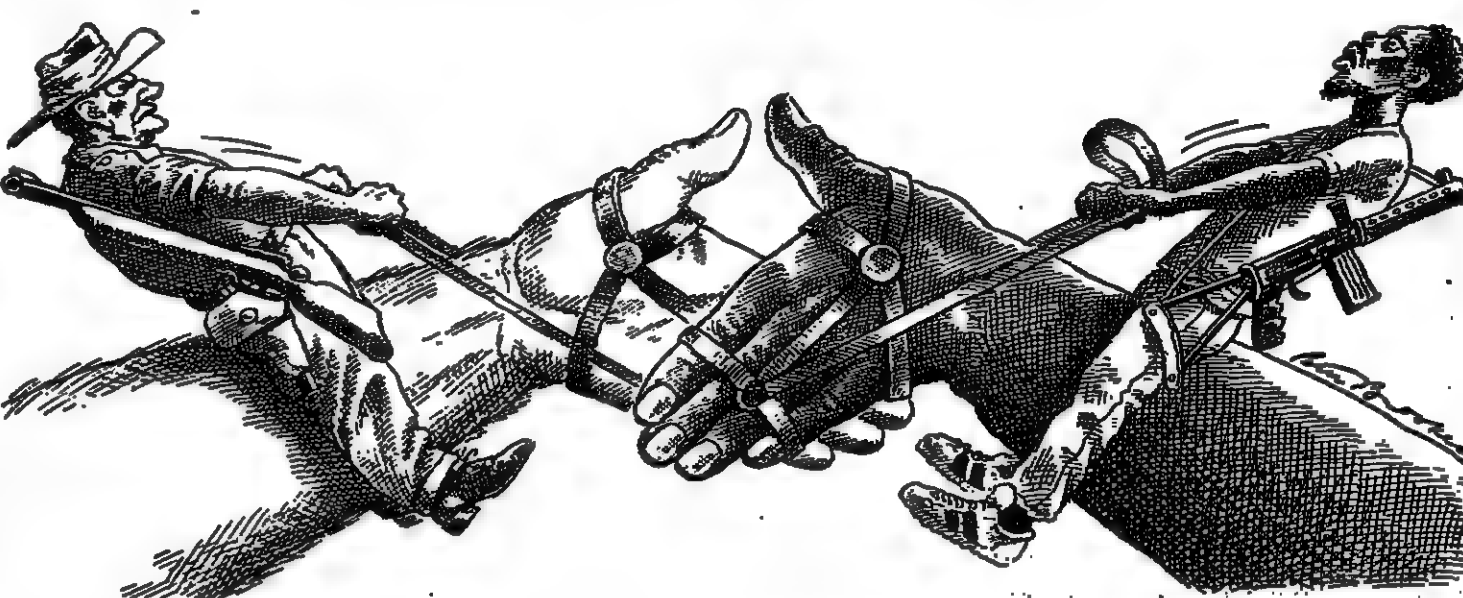
After the emergency, a state of dangerous expectation

President de Klerk's decision to lift the state of emergency in the Transvaal, Cape and Orange Free State goes a long way towards meeting one of the key conditions laid down by the African National Congress for further progress in negotiations. At the same time, the decision to leave the emergency in force in Natal emphasizes just how intractable the problem of political violence in South Africa has become.

When the state of emergency was first imposed by President P.W. Botha in July 1985, the country had been in a state of quasi-revolutionary ferment for two years. The ANC and its local supporters in the United Democratic Front (UDF) had taken up the cry that they would "make South Africa ungovernable", and the major African areas witnessed strikes, riots, repeated clashes with the police, school and consumer boycotts and a sustained attempt to extirpate the network of police informers in the townships.

The intention of the ANC and UDF at the time was to establish "people's power", that is, effectively to turn townships into "liberated areas", complete with street committees enforcing law and order, and people's courts dispensing summary justice. This was only ever patchily achieved, and the excesses of the people's courts and the dreadful practice of necklacing did considerable harm to the liberation movement's image. But the ANC and UDF never wholly lost control of the gathering wave of popular protest of 1983-85. They tended to take credit and responsibility, to claim leadership and give direction, but they were riding a tiger.

The emergency brought all this to a halt. UDF leaders were rounded up by the hundreds; the street committees, people's courts and other burgeoning structures within the townships were immobilized or smashed, and doubtless a new network of informers was begun. But the emergency was an answer purely to a security problem, not to a political one, and it showed no way ahead. Moreover, it brought no halt to the war for political territory that had begun



R.W. Johnson asks if the black and white leaders moving to agreement in South Africa can carry their supporters with them

almost simultaneously in Natal and Chief Buthe's Inkatha movement.

The lifting of the emergency will not restore the status quo ante. De Klerk's historic speech of February 2 has been followed by sporadic explosions of violence all round the country, in which many hundreds have died, some in the Natal fighting, some in political conflicts between the ANC and its Pan-Africanist rivals, some in taxi-wars, some in racial clashes between whites and Africans (as in Welkom) or between Africans and Indians (around Durban), and many, it seems, as a result of private or local vendettas of which we know little.

More generally, the freeing of political activity and the feeling that the day of the white man's old restraints is passing seems to have engendered a heady rise in black expectations, a determination not to be last in the queue, and, in many cases, a rush to grab long-coveted property or territory from ethnic or political opponents. There is a general complaint of rapidly rising crime-rates as the same sort of grab is made more indiscriminately. Hospital work-

ers and teachers have already been on strike, and the miners are talking about it, as the same spirit of boldness permeates the workforce, despite the high levels of black unemployment.

The government, the ANC and the UDF have begun to denounce the "criminal elements" in chorus. The ANC has repeatedly appealed for calm, for children to go back to school and for Nationalist soldiers like Umkhonto to be poised to romp to victory throughout the Transvaal and Orange Free State. Already opinion polls are showing over 50 per cent of Afrikaners behind the CP, a fact which could fatally undermine Mr de Klerk. Indeed, one has to ask whether de Klerk will be able to win the referendum on constitutional change he has promised white voters at the end of the negotiation process.

Hence the real worry of post-emergency politics: the government and ANC have drawn steadily closer together on one issue after another, but show a diminishing ability to pull their followers along with them. Together they are coming to form a

political centre - and the centre may not hold. Already Mr de Klerk is dogged by his somewhat shaky ability to get the police to behave as he would wish - for without doubt the large majority of the police support the CP. And the ANC, have, in effect, no realistic alternative to offer to a continuing army presence in the strife-torn Natal townships.

As in the Soviet Union, after a long period of repression and brutally centralized rule, there follows a happy turn towards glasnost and perestroika. This lifts the lid on all manner of groups and pressures struggling for a new existence. Gradually the focus on the heroic Gorbachev de Klerk figure fades and the speculation as to who or what will exercise centralized rule begins to give way to the awful realization that there may be no party or coalition able to deliver majorities necessary to run the country under its brave new democratic dispensation. South Africa is, happily, some way from the breakdown of civil society that the Soviet Union seems to face - but how the emerging de Klerk-Mandela coalition fares, unbuttressed by emergency rule, will soon shed light on whether South Africa too must travel that fateful road.

The author is a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.

Own goals all round

The advertising agency D'Arcy Masius Benton and Bowles has come up with an imaginative scheme to combat football hooliganism which takes literally the much-quoted dictum that "violence is an own goal against the game". It hopes to persuade all league clubs to score an own goal on the first Saturday of next season, so that these can be filmed and made into an anti-hooliganism commercial.

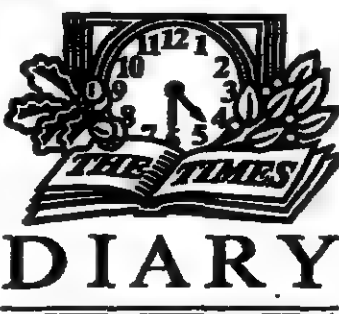
A precedent by England's Steve McMahon in the friendly game against a Sardinia Select this week was engineered by the agency in association with the Football Association, and was much appreciated by the Italian authorities and fans as a statement of intent. "If the England squad are prepared to do it, why shouldn't the league clubs?" asks Graham Hinton, joint chairman of the agency. But the Football League, though still shamed over the outcome of its refusal last month to postpone the Bournemouth match at which Leeds fans went on the rampage, is opposing the commercials. Assistant Secretary Andy Williamson says: "We wouldn't endorse that sort of stunt in a competitive match. It would undermine the game itself." But the agency is undeterred. Its proposed campaign has financial backing from the FA, and it is seeking further sponsorship for the ads from, among others, brewers. "The Football League is missing the point," says Hinton. "We need maximum impact and publicity."

Nothing, it seems, is too much trouble for the newly installed Argentine ambassador when it comes to making friends with the British. After visiting Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, Señor Mario Campora and his entourage returned home in the Palace's three state coaches. Determined to extend the olive branch to all and sundry, he treated the Palace's coachmen to a glass of champagne, whereafter a footman appeared with a silver salver bearing carrots and sugar cubes for the horses.

One for the panel

Some artistic fakes are more acceptable than others. When the Queen Mother opens the Courtland's new gallery in Somerset House next week, she may wonder why the faded monochrome goddesses and clowns on the ceiling look familiar. Where could she have seen them before? At Burlington House, in full colour, is the answer.

When the Royal Academy moved to Burlington House in 1869, it removed the ceiling panels from Somerset House's Fine Rooms, and installed them in its new home. In the early 1970s, the Property Services Agency undertook some restoration of the Fine Rooms, and with a limited budget hit upon the cut-price but imaginative solution of sticking black-and-white photographs of the panels on the ceiling.



DIARY

the results might have looked worse than the PSA's photographs. People will think they are grisaille or something like that."

Over-30s club

A spring novelist clutching their unimpeachable rejection letter need weep alone no more. Help is at hand from the Society of Rejected Writers, newly set up to offer sustenance, support and Kleenex to the unpublished. There is only one qualification for membership: a minimum of 30 publishers' rejection slips. The group, first launched in New York, has received a warm welcome on this side of the Atlantic. Richard Adams, of *Waterhip Down* fame, says he wishes it had existed to ease his early experiences of rejection. "I would ask my wife to go and collect the rejected manuscript from the publisher," he remembers, although his tally of seven thumbs-down would not gain him membership. Had the group been set up earlier it might have helped the American novelist John Kennedy Toole, who committed suicide before the publication of *A Confederacy of Dunces*, for which he was posthu-

mously awarded a Pulitzer prize. "It received an awful lot of rejection letters, enough to depress him severely," says a spokeswoman for his British publishers, Viking. The scriptwriter Barry Cryer is less sure of the group's merits. "It encourages negative thinking," he argues, and surely the number of rejections required seems excessively high. After the recent spate of publishing takeovers and mergers, will there be enough rejecting companies to go round?

They've rejected my application for membership

A new alliance between the worlds of property developers and playwrights is being forged today, when Alan Ayckbourn attends a topping-out ceremony for a block of flats being named in his honour in his adopted home town of Scarborough. Keen to strike one for the playwrights, Ayckbourn overcame his usual aversion to being immortalized in stone. "People

Another full house

assume you're deceased," he says, "but I was prepared to take the risk with the flats, as there had been a vote by local people for the name, and I felt it would be rather curious to refuse." As he dons a hard hat for the ceremony at "Ayckbourn Chapters" today, he has just one quibble. "Ayckbourn scenes" or "acts" might have been more suitable," he says.

Sweet Williams

Shirley Williams and power dressing? About as unlikely as the Archbishop of Canterbury appearing in *Coronation Street*, you might think. But according to the July issue of *Harpers & Queen*, the former MP, who won awards in her days in the SDP as the worst-dressed woman in public life, has smartened up her image. Newly tidied and coiffed, Williams, who was once described as displaying a "charming wind-tunnel-effect", is now enjoying the academic life teaching politics at Harvard. "In America you have to look like a glamorous model of older women's clothes to be taken seriously," she says. Of her less than impeccable appearance in the past, she adds: "It was a foolish mistake. I should have realized that you have to conform to that extent. I recognize now that there are some things you can't get away with." Williams will spend another three years at Harvard, but insists that she keeps in touch with British politics. She is reticent about any future position, but gives Neil Kinnock full credit for the changes in the Labour Party. She also concedes: "There might be a role for me in the Upper House." As a Labour minister perhaps?



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ARMED TRUCE OVER BSE

The spectre of protectionism has once again passed over the European Community, only to be banished for the moment by yesterday's deal in Brussels. Once Italy and Germany joined France in banning British beef, ostensibly to limit the spread of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the danger that the British would retaliate became acute. The European Commission's order to lift the ban was ignored. After much midnight oil had been burnt, the British agriculture secretary, Mr John Gummer, grudgingly agreed yesterday to an elaborate system of certification. This will place strict controls on the export of carcasses, and animals from herds affected by BSE will be identified as such.

Despite this sensible compromise, nobody emerges from the preceding quarrel with much credit. Mr Gummer has been forced to concede, in effect, that too little is known about BSE for politicians to dare eschew the caution of the Community's veterinary committee. "In the light of present knowledge, meat derived from bovine animals in countries in which BSE occurs is not considered to be a danger to public health." That short of Mr Gummer's ever more indignant declaration that "British beef is entirely safe".

A vow of silence might now do much for Mr Gummer's standing at home. Consumers, having been assured that everything possible was already being done by the Government to safeguard their interests, are now confronted with new and much stricter controls: but for the benefit of foreign beef-eaters, not domestic ones. Unlike his colleague at Agriculture, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the minister responsible for the nation's health, has been reticent on this matter. It is time the country heard from him.

The French agriculture minister, M Henri Nallet, does not emerge unscathed either. He has done nothing to allay the suspicion that French farmers have concealed the extent of BSE among their own herds, since compensation from M Nallet's ministry has not so far been forthcoming. The question of whether BSE is absent from France is still open. Long

before the French ban, a Greek expert from the Pasteur Institute in Athens, M Georges Mezias, had suggested that undetected but diseased cattle were being sold and eaten on the Continent, though he now admits that no cases have yet been found. If he and other European vets were aware of this possibility, how could M Nallet's officials be ignorant? Until French cattle farmers and slaughterers are subject to the same rigorous inspections as those now imposed on Britain, importers are entitled to regard French beef as suspect.

The French Government's motives are less pardonable, but no less transparent than those of Herr Ignaz Kiechle, the West German agriculture minister. Herr Kiechle was under strong pressure to stigmatise British imports from the German Farmers' Union (DBV), whose leader Constantin Freiherr Heereman has demanded a ban on the import of calves as well as of beef and cattle over six months old. If even a single infected animal were to cross the Channel, he remarked on Wednesday, "the consequences could be incalculable". Chancellor Kohl knows that this sordid squabble may delay the single market. But it is election year in West Germany. The DBV's members are even more precious to Herr Kohl and his Bavarian allies, who include Herr Kiechle, than British farmers are to the Tories.

The European Commission emerges with no credit at all, having again left it to ministers to sort out a compromise. Blame for this does not attach to the agriculture commissioner, Mr Raymond MacSharry, but to his French chief, M Jacques Delors, whose failure to condemn his compatriots' unilateral defiance of Mr MacSharry has been noticeable. If M Delors is to rebut convincingly the charge of partiality, he should worry less about his political future back home and support his own commissioners. Mutual fear of a trade war, which would have been damaging for all concerned, has triumphed over national egotism. But there should be no illusions about the readiness of member states to place the Community's interests before their own.

TANGO FOR TWO

The world does not willingly turn its villains into heroes. Although it has not been grudging in granting the laurel to President Gorbachev, its embarrassment over the need to reverse held opinions is more acute when it comes to the man with whom the Soviet leader is often compared, President de Klerk of South Africa. Yet on all available evidence, including his remarkable speech in Cape Town yesterday, it can be argued that Mr de Klerk has shown more leadership and strength of purpose than his Soviet counterpart in his bid to outpace the fears of a fractious and uncertain constituency.

The dangers he faces at the hands of that constituency were graphically demonstrated by the result of this week's Umlazi by-election which, if translated nationally, would give Mr de Klerk no hope of winning a white election and little chance of victory in a white referendum on any new constitution.

Far from stopping dead in his reforming tracks, however, the South African leader ignored both the advice of his security chiefs and the signals from the voters to announce the end of the four-year-old state of emergency, thus demolishing the African National Congress's major obstacle to negotiation. Like the master poker player he is, he not only saw the ANC's bid but also raised it. He announced the release of yet another clutch of "political prisoners" and disclosed that the joint working party set up by the Government and the ANC had reached agreement on the remaining obstacles (as defined by the ANC) to the start of real talks about South Africa's future.

For the first time, the President also revealed some justified impatience with the ANC's dilatoriness and with the confused signals which Mr Nelson Mandela is sending to a world which is giving him another hero's welcome. It is an impatience which those Western leaders serious about a just and viable settlement in South Africa would do well to inculcate into their conversations with the ANC leader during his propaganda tour in favour of continued sanctions.

Many in the West, not least within the British Labour Party, still believe that South Africa must go through some purifying fire of

revolutionary conflict before they can quite regard it as even tolerably on the road to reform. If this means an ensuing wasteland of blood and economic recession, too bad. (This is not, apparently, a principle these enthusiasts apply to the white states of Eastern Europe, trading with them as murderous dictatorships or timid reformers.)

More sensible observers should heed the result of the Natal by-election and realize that, whatever Mr Mandela may feel himself obliged to say, neither he nor Mr de Klerk now has time on his side. The opposing forces of black rejection and white reaction are on the march. The alternative to Mr de Klerk's peace process is increasingly plain to see: not some smart-suited moderate ANC government but civil war between hard-eyed young comrades of the Pan Africanist Congress and the big guns of a government led by Dr Andries Treurnicht of the Conservative Party.

Mr Mandela will not hear this message in the United States, where concern for South Africa's future has long been trivialized into a vehicle for keeping anti-apartheid campaigners in funds and black politicians in office. The burden of sense thus falls on other Western leaders, who should match Mr de Klerk's courage with their own. However painful it might be to the more casual of their liberal supporters, they should tell Mr Mandela that he cannot praise Mr de Klerk's integrity in one breath and call for continued sanctions with the next. The South African President has met his and their conditions for the lifting of sanctions. He now badly needs help to assist him with his right wing back home.

Finally, they should tell the ANC leader that his place in history will be secured not by holding gospel concerts for New York's Transit Authority — one projected engagement during his American visit — but across the negotiating table in Cape Town. If he fails to seize the moment, South Africa's former martyr could sacrifice any hope of being its future leader. For that advice, Mr Mandela may have to wait until he visits the ANC's former friends in Moscow. There he might find a leader who recognizes the dangers of unrewarded reform.

OLDER AND WISER

"Age, I do abhor thee; youth, I do adore thee." Britain's personnel directors seem to agree with Shakespeare's *Passionate Pilgrim*. A survey carried out by Gallup for Brook Street has found that British companies are fishing from an ever-decreasing pool of young workers, while still disdaining their elders.

No fewer than 86 per cent of the personnel directors interviewed preferred candidates aged under 35. Young people, they said, were less set in their ways, comfortable with new technology and fitted the companies' "trendy, dynamic image". Those over 50 tended to be rejected for having less stamina, being more resistant to change — and well — grey.

Yet behind dynamic youth can lie folly, rashness and irresponsibility. Grey hairs may seem staid, but they often accompany maturity, steadfastness, conscientiousness and loyalty. If older people are not familiar with new technology, it may be because they have never had a chance to learn, not that they are incapable of mastering it.

The saddest victims of ageism have been those in their fifties and sixties who were in middle-management jobs a decade ago. In their youth, they accepted low pay and humble work in the full expectation that, when they reached middle age, they would be rewarded by senior jobs. Instead, many found themselves being made redundant or passed over in favour of younger colleagues.

A combination of recession and Thatcherite policies forced many companies to streamline their working practices in the Eighties. Some middle-aged managers may have been too Luddite in their thinking to be able to adapt.

But if the youngsters who replaced them were happier to change their ways, were they as successful at managing in the new climate? Not necessarily, as the rash of business failures among young companies has shown.

The best basis for any appointment is merit. Young people should not be held back in their careers because of their age, as they still are in many parts of the public sector. Nor should older people be ruled out. Some may be fazed by computers; others may delight in learning about them.

In the US, France and Canada, employers are now not allowed to discriminate against older applicants in job advertisements. In Britain, recruitment advertisements still frequently state that "those over 45 need not apply". Such wording is as offensive as stating that blacks or women will not be considered. The latter enjoy the protection of laws against sex and race discrimination. Perhaps, if an employer is prejudiced against older people, then they might as well be spared the bother of applying. But meeting a dynamic, computer-literate 30-year-old in the flesh may be just what a personnel director needs to dispel his or her preconceptions.

The changing age composition of the population is already throwing up a shortage of young workers and thus impelling industry in the direction of previously disadvantaged groups. But the free market is not enough to end the unnecessary offence of age discrimination. As with other forms of blanket discrimination, ageism merits the condemnation of the law.

Stalker and the RUC inquiry

From Sir Lawrence Byford

Sir, I refer to the drama documentary "Shoot to Kill" from Yorkshire Television (review, June 4).

May I, as the then Chief Inspector of Constabulary, set the record straight as to the events leading to Mr Stalker's suspension as Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester and his removal from the Northern Ireland inquiry.

In May 1986 the Greater Manchester Police Authority launched an investigation relating to Mr Stalker. An authority may only take informal action in such matters "if it is satisfied that the conduct complained of, even if proved, would not justify a criminal or disciplinary charge". It followed that a senior police officer from another force had to be appointed to conduct the investigation which was supervised by the independent Police Complaints Authority (the public's watchdog in such matters), who also authorised the suspension from duty of Mr Stalker.

In these circumstances and not surprisingly, Mr Stalker could no longer continue the Northern Ireland inquiry and he was replaced by Mr Sampson, the then Chief Constable of the West Yorkshire Police, who, as anticipated, finalised the Northern Ireland investigation expeditiously using the team of Manchester detectives which had previously been under the direction of Mr Stalker. This should surely dispel the notion that Mr Stalker's removal from the investigation was part of an "establishment cover-up". Nothing could be further from the truth in that the action taken was to protect the investigation from being sullied by the unfortunate circumstances concerning Mr Stalker. Imagine the criticism that would have ensued had Mr Stalker been allowed to continue in Ulster and the allegations against him had then become public knowledge at a critical stage of the investigation.

Furthermore I can firmly refute the ongoing speculation that these events involved Ministers and/or senior civil servants. The first they knew of the decision to refer the matters to the appropriate authorities in Manchester and Belfast was when I briefed them at a later stage and thereafter, following the usual practice, I kept them informed of developments.

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE BYFORD
(Chief Inspector of Constabulary 1983-87),
Royal Overseas League,
Overseas House,
Park Place,
St James's Street, SW1.
June 4.

Education funding

From the President of the Society of Education Officers

Sir, Your leading article on "Staffroom rhetoric" (June 1) does less than justice to the need for adequate funding for maintained schools. The essential question is whether the money available to schools is sufficient to undertake the tasks with which they are now charged.

There is no objective evidence that schools are over-funded, and a good deal to show to the contrary, especially in the adequacy of school buildings, administration and clerical support staff, and time for curriculum planning and assessment for primary school teachers. None of these is capable of resolution by improved management and redeployment of resources alone. Further evidence that we are certainly not over-funding our schools is shown by comparisons with international competitors, and levels of funding in the private sector.

Schools are now faced with the implementation of the National Curriculum. We wish to make a success of this reform and to see that every child receives the full benefit of a broad curriculum, including science and technology, from the age of five to 16. Expectations are being raised. If they are to be fulfilled then there is a price to be paid, namely a proper investment in our future generation through the public education service.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW COLLIER, President,
Society of Education Officers,
21-27 Lamb Conduit Street,
London, WCI.
June 4.

Tiananmen killings

From Dr Han Suyin

Sir, Your Diary item of June 2 maintains that I refused to condemn the killings in Tiananmen Square.

May I quote from my recent book, *Tigers and Butterflies* (Earthscan), page 237, which reproduces my article of November, 1989, published in Hong Kong. I wrote: "the killing and wounding of innocent people... cannot be condoned" (emphasis as in the original).

My concern for all countries is self-determination, including China, and this is the unifying theme of *Tigers and Butterflies*. I resent the new kind of interference which seems to dictate the course of nations through outside agitation, subversion, monetary or otherwise. I am sure the British people would also resent this kind of "new" interference.

Sincerely,
HAN SUYIN,
c/o Earthscan Publications Ltd.,
5 Endsleigh Street, WCI.

Need for reform of party finances

From Mr Richard S. Rowntree

Sir, You are right to imply on the Owen legacy (leading article, June 4) that without changes in the British electoral system it will not be practical for the Labour Party to sever its constitutional links with the trade unions. Yet the maintenance of these links will not only continue to be a serious electoral handicap for the Labour Party, but even more important remain as a hindrance to the establishment of a proper measure of union influence in the affairs of the country irrespective of the party in power.

It is now very important that all political parties should recognise that the most urgently required reform of our electoral system is not some form of proportional representation. Certainly, this remains an area about which there is much disagreement. It is, however, impossible for anybody concerned for the political and economic health of our country to deny the need for changes in the pattern of financing political parties and elections. The financial dependence of the two effective political parties on industry and the trade unions is a disaster for our country as it bolsters the two sides' mentality in labour relations, which is probably the main cause of our national economic failure.

The solution is not the limitless state funding of politics, but a carefully designed system to

match individual financial contributions to political parties with State funds up to a limit determined in part by the proportion of votes the parties have received at the preceding election.

Such a system would not deny the right of corporate bodies to make political contributions provided these are approved by their members or shareholders. It would however limit more effectively the total amount of money that could be spent on elections.

Thus the whole level of public participation in the processes of democracy would be raised through an increased sense of responsibility for the political party of one's choice and a curbing of the present unhealthy tendency to replace the influence of reasoned argument with the power of professional advertising.

Detailed proposals of this kind were in fact worked out in the 1981 report entitled *Paying for Politics* by the multi-party Harward Society Commission of which I was a member. Its detailed recommendations need bringing up to date, but in broad outline they represent an essential reform of a kind that should now be welcomed by all parties.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD S. ROWNTREE,
Kingthorpe House,
Pickering, North Yorkshire.
June 4.

Aspects of the SDP's demise

From Mr J. E. Birnie

Sir, Your political obituary for Dr Owen and his party (leader, June 4) neglected one achievement which although it may now appear insignificant could in the long run have a great impact for good. In 1989 the SDP became the first UK national party to fully endorse the principle that those parties which aspire to govern the UK should contest elections in all parts of the UK (including Northern Ireland).

In the Upper Bann by-election (report, May 19) the SDP shared with the Conservatives the honour of being the first national parties to fight a parliamentary election in Northern Ireland for roughly a century.

Dr Owen and his party had sufficient vision to see that the introduction of national parties to Northern Ireland is the best means of normalising life there and guaranteeing civil rights for all while denying the terrorists the oxygen of hope. Respectably the Labour Party (new look or not) still treats Northern Ireland as an electoral no-go area.

Yours faithfully,
P. E. BIRNIE
(Secretary, Northern Ireland SDP Area Party),
143b University Avenue,
Belfast, Northern Ireland.

From Mr P. M. Diemer

Sir, Although a substantial element of the SDP membership in 1987 was strongly opposed to the proposed merger of the Alliance parties, their grounds were for some reason never given proper weight by professional commentators. Yet the anti-merger case was readily explicable and made good sense.

The two parties, as in most coalitions, appealed to different "constituencies" for their support and when they came together to fight elections on an agreed platform secured more support than they could have achieved in any other way.

The SDP brought to the Alliance more media and closely fought policies than anything the Liberals had produced since the war. Like the Liberals, they were on the side of the underdog in Britain and overseas but they combined this with an impressive ability to confront unpleasant realities in the realms of economic and defence policy.

The SDP's views carried the day within the Alliance to a large extent partly on account of their worth and advocacy but also because in negotiating the platform they were able to deal with the Liberals as equals. When to this were added the notable campaigning skills of the Liberals on the ground, the outcome was remarkably successful.

Quarry at Stowe

From Mr T. Higgins

Sir, In their 1976 report, the Verney committee faced the problem of mineral working squarely — namely, that mineral deposits will inevitably be found near inhabited areas, where there are environmental benefits in having the source close to the centre of demand. It is then a matter of balance whether the need overrides other considerations.

It would be foolish to suggest that the "need" argument should always prevail — there are some areas of great sensitivity where quarrying should not take place — but sand and gravel is a national resource and each county should make its proper contribution to the nation's consumption.

Yours faithfully,
T. HIGGINS
(President),
Sand and Gravel Association Limited,
1 Bramber Court,
Bramber Road, W14.
June 6.

From Mrs Evelyn Franklin

Sir, If Sir Ralph Verney (May 29) would care to look at the latest

Bill Rodgers in his article (June 4) acknowledges that the capture of 25.4 per cent of the vote in 1983 was a great achievement and, since, in the meantime, Labour had benefited by jettisoning the uniquely disastrous Michael Foot the Alliance should not have been unduly displeased with the 22.6 per cent it won in 1987. Instead the facile argument was adduced that their showing was poor and that this was due to the existence of two leaders causing confusion to the voters.

After the 1987 election only David Owen of the original Gang of Four seemed likely to remain genuinely active in politics but he was, more than anyone else, who had, latterly impressed on the minds of supporters and non-supporters alike that the Alliance was a serious political force. A merger would however mean that the new party would always have a Liberal leader since the Liberals had the upper hand numerically.

What we have seen since the painful birth of the SLD reflects the fears entertained by the Owenite SDP. Had the Alliance kept its head, Mrs Thatcher would today have much more cause to fear the loss of those Conservative seats where the Alliance candidate ran the 1989 winner a close second.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL DIEMER,
23 Nonsuch Walk,
Chesham, Sutton, Surrey.

From Mr Stephen Reiss

Sir, I was homeless before the SDP was founded. Sir David Steel expects me to be angry (report, June 4) because I am homeless once again. On the contrary I can only feel grateful to those who recognized the home I wanted and did their utmost to build it.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN REISS,
14 Bridewell Alley,
Norwich, Norfolk.
June 5.

From Mr J. Leonard Nicholson

Sir, "Any party of the left which does not have its roots in the British working class movement will sooner or later degenerate into a small ineffectual coterie" (Roy Jenkins, 1970 election campaign). *Ave atque vale*, SDP.

Yours faithfully,
J. LEONARD NICHOLSON,
Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, W1.
June 6.

From Dr David Krasner

Sir, Following the demise of the SDP, might I suggest that the Liberal Democrats change their name to the Liberal Party?

Yours faithfully,
D. H. KRASNER,
35 Sherwood Road, NW4.

Guidelines for Aggregates Provision, England and Wales, he will see that much of the vast quantity of aggregate supplied to the South-east, comes from one small part of the beautiful Mendip Hills.

It is extracted from two super-quarries, one of which is owned by the late John Foster Yeoman's family. We are told that it must be allowed to continue to expand and deepen in order to finance the super-quarry in Scotland, to which he refers. Why on earth should the fine scenery of the Mendips and Scotland be ruined, so that aggregates can be exported to "anywhere in the world", let alone the South-east of England?

How convenient for the South-east that, in 1976, it decided to satisfy so much of its demand from the more distant parts of Somerset and Scotland. It might moderate its demand, perhaps, if the price of aggregates reflected the environmental costs associated with huge modern operating units.

Yours faithfully,
EVELYN FRANKLIN,
Chairman,
The Asham and East Mendip Group,
Fitzroy House,
Ash Lane,
Wells,
Somerset.
May 30.

Plight of addicts and alcoholics

From Miss Rosa A. Della-Tolla and Mrs Sally G. Benjamin

Sir, We applaud Ruth Gledhill's well researched report (May 29) on the predictably disastrous plight of alcoholics and addicts as a consequence of the new National Health Service and Community Care Bill, which starts its report stage in the Lords today.

In November, 1988, we opened the doors of our residential secondary care unit for 10 women (aged 25-65) who have had treatment for alcoholism and other drug dependencies. We are a registered care home in Lambeth. The stay ranges from three to six months.

Our project was set up and is privately owned by just the two of us, with absolutely no financial assistance from anyone save for expensive bank loans. Not only was the utility of applying for any grants painfully apparent but we were also actively discouraged from doing so.

The new community care Bill will leave us with only two alternatives — to either close or go totally private. The latter is not an option as we are dealing with women who have lost everything as a consequence of their alcoholism/addiction. Furthermore, to exclude women who cannot afford our service would go against our principles and personal code of values.

The discretionary powers given to local authorities by the new Bill, in not stipulating a specific proportion to be allocated to the treatment of alcoholism/addiction (ringfencing), will result in funds being diverted to other sectors.

Under the new Bill, payment of residential treatment will come from three different sources. This will result in a crippling increase in administration costs and bring about the closure of the small but very effective registered rehabilitation centres. Although a subsidy to cover these costs would lessen the threat of closure the ideal alternative would be for funding to still come from a single source.

Failing the imposition of an overall policy for ringfencing and guidelines for responsibility for funding treatment being applied nationally to local authorities, we would urge that a specific central grant be made available to alcoholics/addicts as suggested by the original Griffiths report for certain key services of low priority. This grant would be similar to that already allocated to mental illness on the grounds of stigma and payable through local authorities. The stigma attached to alcoholism/addiction is just as great.

Yours faithfully,
ROSA A. DELLA-TOLLA
SALLY G. BENJAMIN
(Founder Directors),
Headway Halfway House,
34 Rectory Grove, SW4.
June 7.

Kent's traffic

From the Leader of Kent County Council

Sir, Mr James Graham is misinformed (May 30) on the discrepancies between the treatment of Kent in terms of transport infrastructure.

No one will have good links to Europe unless they can pass through Kent conveniently to reach the tunnel. The motorway connections currently being built, and the new rail link being discussed are being supported by Kent County Council in the national interest, and it is not without some cost to the residents of the garden of England. It would be very easy for us to make a parochial view but that has not been our approach. All we have asked is that the links be designed sensitively, and built quickly.

Kent's roads and train services are under great pressure. We suffer both from international traffic passing through the county, as well as considerable local demand. Traffic flows on Kent main roads are already three times the national average and growing 50 per cent faster than elsewhere. Our trains are heavily overloaded, and the passengers are the least subsidised in the country. No one who understands the situation can suggest that Kent is enjoying a favoured position. I believe we are making significant sacrifices in the interests of the UK Limited.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. HART, Leader,
Kent County Council,
County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent.

Canterbury stakes

From the Archdeacon of York and the Vicar of Ealing

Sir, Those who study the field in the coming Canterbury and London stakes might care to cast a cautionary glance at the fate of two of our predecessors.

In the 18th century, Thomas Hayter, Archdeacon of York and Prebend of Riccall, was elevated to the See of London and died of dropsy after only two months in office. Thomas Bradwardine, Chancellor of St Paul's and Rector of Ealing in the 14th century, travelled to Avignon to receive the pallium, returned post-haste to Canterbury, and to Lambeth, where within the week he succumbed to the Black Death.

We are naturally anxious lest the members of the Crown Appointments Commission be unaware of the full facts.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
MICHAEL SAWARD,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1.



Council of the Institute at 80

June 7: Princess Alexandra was represented by Major Peter Clarke at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mr Norman Parkinson which was held in Westminster Abbey.

EDGAR PALAMOUNT

Wilson. At the head of the Chemical Workers' Union Edwards was a leading campaigner for the

ROBERT EDWARDS

Madrid. He was attempting to act as an observer at the trial of a young Spanish diplomat and eight leftwing Catholic associates accused of "rebellion" when they sought to

and devised and proved the use of partial models, elastically suspended, that allowed better and more economic testing of not only bridges but other structures.

SALLY, DUCHESS of WESTMINSTER

transforming the new home in Gloucestershire into another area of beauty. Her deep understanding of the animate world was manifest in the ardent support and help she gave to the Chester zoological

Forthcoming marriages

Engagements
Mr P.J. Milner
and Mrs A. Lakshmin
The engagement is announced
between Peter James, of

marriages

Quanton Hall School, in Harrow, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.M. Milner, of Cranleigh and Aino, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Agne Löwegren, of Lund, Sweden.

Case and Miss S.A. Br.
ent is announced The engagement

between Angus Neish, 4th/7th
Royal Dragoon Guards, eldest
son of the late Lieutenant-
Colonel and Mrs J. Neish, of
West Lavington, Wiltshire, and
Sarah, younger daughter of
Major-General and Mrs H.E.N.

McIntosh **Bredin, of Ardleigh**
Dr F.P. Payne

and Dr P.J. Berry
The engagement is announced
between Frank Philip Payne,
eldest son of Mr and Mrs Frank
Cecil Payne, of Torquay,
Devon, and Philippa Jane
Berry, only daughter of the late
Mr. Thomas Berry, of

of Mrs Celia Bern
Wood, Mansfield

Mr A.M. Peña
and Miss A.C. Pegley
The engagement is announced
between Angel, son of the late
Señor Angelino Peña and of
Señora Irma Peña, of Bogota,
Colombia, and Aniba-

daughter of Mr and Mrs Peasey, of Bath, Ax-

Dr R. Towler
and Miss S. Toynbee
The engagement is announced
between Robert, son of Mr
Towler and the late Mrs Towler,
of King's Lynn, and Sarah,
daughter of Mr and Mrs

Lawrence Toynbe
Cottage, Ganthorp

**Mr D.R. Valentine
and Miss S.D. Sharrar**
The engagement is announced
between Derek, son of Mr and
Mrs S. Valentine, of Emsworth,
Hampshire, and Sandra,
daughter of Mr and Mrs L.
Sharrar, of Ashurst Hampshire.

Parish Clergy

The following have been elected officers of the Parish Clerk's Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr. J.H. Gaze; Upper Warden, Mr. J. H. Gaze; Lower Warden, Mr. A.R. Russell; Under Warden, Mr. J. H. Gaze.

Margaret F.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Margaret Hutton will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral, on Wednesday, June 20, at 3.30 pm.

1



On a rising tide of discontent: a water-borne protest on the canals of Venice, where the mayor, the police and vast numbers of the population are opposed to the threatened avalanche of visitors to Expo 2000

Britain, which earned the world's praise for leading an international campaign to save the architectural treasures of Venice, is believed to have a key influence on a decision to be taken next week on whether the Adriatic city will play host to Expo 2000. This is an "honour" Venice does not want, and which may well have a devastating effect upon it. Remarkably, Britain's support for the protection of Venice against this peril is not guaranteed.

All that the British government will formally say before the vote next Thursday is that it has not yet made up its mind about the competing candidatures of Venice, Hanover and Toronto. This indecision is profoundly worrying an international artistic community looking to this country for leadership.

Others go further. Sir Ashley Clarke, former ambassador to Italy and in retirement now president of the Venice In Peril Fund, said: "I have heard from diplomatic sources in Rome that Britain's position on this is ambiguous, to say the least. It appears to be sliding to Italy's side." And the historian John Julius Norwich, the fund's chairman, said: "The signals are worrying. I read that one of our official delegates burst out with 'listen, we are not going to be pressured by the Venice-lovers'."

Rumours are circulating freely in organizations as diverse as the Committee of Unesco's World Heritage Fund and the fledgling European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, that a diplomatic deal has been done, perhaps relating back to Italian support for the siting of that bank in London, as a pump-primer to London Docklands.

If Expo is imposed upon Venice, against the protests of its mayor, its police, and vast numbers of its population, it is feared that a city of narrow streets and bridges which says it can comfortably welcome no more than 25,000 visitors a day would be overwhelmed by up to 250,000 every day for four months.

Art historians from Moscow to Dallas have joined the city's protest. Carlo Ripa di Meana, EC Commissioner for the Environment, says that if the project goes ahead he will ensure that every EC regulation on protection is en-

forced to the letter. In May the European Parliament, condemning Italy's application, defeated the Italian Socialists and their allies by 195 to 15 votes.

Expo's backers have exploited the international character of the opposition, maintaining that foreign art-lovers and tourists are depriving the city of the investment, new buildings and jobs which would stem from Expo and would ensure it a "modern" future.

Given the undisputed evidence of peril, why has Venice been thrust into the final selection? The answer lies in the nature of Italian politics and business, and in the character of two brothers who operate in both fields with formidable dash and aggression.

Gianni De Michelis, Italy's socialist Minister for Foreign Affairs, cuts a remarkable figure, physically and socially, in Italy's greying ranks of familiar political faces. Stout and ill-groomed, he combines a passion for nightlife (author of *Where Shall we Go to Dance Tonight*, a guide to 250 discos) with solid contacts among Italy's powerful unions. His ambitions are conspicuously European-wide and he is obsessed by the idea that events in Eastern Europe have "restored" Venice to its position at the centre of Europe.

He has visited almost 30 countries (twice lobbying unconvinced Argentina) to get his message across. Some Italians insist he has gone further than mere persuasion. Signor Giorgio Napolitano, a leading communist politician, accused De Michelis in the Italian parliament this week of having "not very clear political and private reasons" for making himself the promoter of Expo.

Not very clear? Signor De Michelis will ensure himself lifelong support across the Veneto region if he brings investments of \$850 million (at current estimates, probably in reality nearer twice that sum) to boost the regional economy. He would welcome the shattering of Venice's traditional mould: some years ago he was a prime mover in a project to rezone parts of the city, including plans to bring motor-traffic to the world's most famous pedestrian precinct.

His businessman brother, Cesare, has led the way in assembling a formidable group of Italian and international companies who would build and operate a Venetian Expo. Cesare is now the consortium's vice-president.

Will Britain pass a sentence of death on Venice?

Venice is again in peril — this time from floods of visitors to a trade fair.

Brian James and Rosemary Righter investigate Britain's role in the Machiavellian plots behind next week's vote on the site of Expo 2000

tian Expo. Cesare is now the consortium's vice-president.

The De Michelis brothers' response to criticism has been curious. First, Gianni claimed that this was an Expo for the entire region, rather than just Venice. Many features would be staged in Padua or Verona, therefore not all the expected 30 million visitors would flood over the Rialto bridge towards St Mark's. Then Cesare's consortium produced a bizarre "solution" to overcrowding.

Access to Venice would be controlled by a "credit card", used for reserving tickets for museums and beds in hotels. The card would grant visitors a computer-determined "route" through the city. Non-card holders would queue, possibly for days, for entry. Why a world fair should be staged by a city already fighting to keep crowds away was not explained.

Until last Tuesday, opponents of Expo hoped that the Italian government would withdraw its application. Two cabinet members had disowned the whole business, and when the parliament then debated the application no vote was taken — even though they were discussing proposals worth billions of lire which their taxpayers must underwrite. The Prime Minister, Giulio Andreotti, suggested that no vote was required since nothing would be done without the city's approval. But the maintenance of Venetian vigilance is far from guaranteed, since Gianni De Michelis himself is a candidate for mayor (a post he

can hold simultaneously). Signor Andreotti then announced that even if Venice were granted the Expo next week, Italy could still withdraw.

What effect that extraordinary statement will have next Thursday on the body which decides on the fair, the congress of the Bureau International des Expositions, remains to be seen. But then the BIE itself, an obscure leftover from the League of Nations, is an extraordinary organization. Based in Paris on the Avenue Victor Hugo,

it exists solely to decide the siting of global fairs, of which there are three or four a decade.

The organization's membership is a curious assortment of 41 governments, plus Byelorussia and the Ukraine (an anomaly dating to Stalin's negotiations with Roosevelt when the United Nations was founded). Haiti, Monaco and Lebanon — not at first glimpse ideal host countries for world exhibitions — are members. India, the United States, and China are not.

The bureau convenes governmental meetings twice a year — a workload so unimpressive that most governments send along junior diplomats from Paris embassies. So much, the bureau admits. But it is absurdly closed-mouthed about its activities. The secretariat was unable to provide the names of BIE delegates — the people who will vote on Thursday. BIE's secretary-general, Marie-Hélène Deffrène made no attempt to defend such secrecy: "It's a rule without a reason."

This can have nothing to do with shielding delegates from improper pressures, since they have no official powers and are supposed to vote according to their government's instruction. But secrecy does shield them from public accountability, should any of them be tempted, under the secret ballot, to disobey orders from capitals. With so much at stake, it is extraordinary that the fate of Venice is in the hands of 100 or so extremely junior dip-

They would sigh with secret relief if they could get away with walling in central Venice as a permanent outdoor museum while freeing their hands to develop the vast, newly-discovered gas resources just outside its lagoon, and the potential of its port

lomats, almost none of whom has any knowledge of the organization of international fairs. When it was visited by *The Times* this week, the BIE seemed bemused by its sudden notoriety. Outside its small and beautiful offices, members of the Italian Green Party were clambering the railings to affix a huge banner proclaiming that Venice must not be chosen. They insisted that greens from all over Europe would join them within the hour.

Officials of BIE watched warily. A masked commando group wielding batons and teargas canisters had burst in three weeks previously, broken up office machinery, cut the telephone and thrown indelible ink everywhere. The group was protesting against Hanover as a possible site. Mme Deffrène said: "Now our offices have police protection and next week our delegates will have to be protected as well."

Names can be attached to the three people who will cast Britain's vote on Thursday. They are Roger James, head of a small exhibitions department in the information section of the Foreign Office; Mrs Hanna Kalner-Szwarc, a locally-hired member of the Paris embassy's information staff; and Ted Allan, one of the very few of those present with any knowledge of the logistics of a big exhibition. He said: "I have been connected with BIE since 1958. I know the animal. It works. We are rather a quiet little organization, and this attention is new. Obviously I cannot discuss what Britain will support, even if I knew. I expect to be told how to vote not before the evening before that vote is taken. In Britain's case, no one person decides. It is an item on a cabinet agenda. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will obviously have a crucial say, carrying great weight with his colleagues. Remember, we have been asked for support by three friendly nations."

Mr Allan, head of a BIE fact-finding mission to the three competing cities, emphasized that this mission made no recommendation. "Not our task. We had to assess the feasibility of each city's proposal, and include any logistical difficulties we envisaged. We did not discuss the political, diplomatic or environmental questions that might arise. Lobbying? Provided it does

not go beyond what is reasonable, we do not discourage it. Cities have sunk a great deal of expectation in their proposals and lobbying may be seen as an earnest of their desire to win."

Thursday's meeting has a hidden agenda of two items. One is the fear of many Venetians that Italy is tired of footing the bill for a unique city. They would sigh with secret relief if they could get away with walling in central Venice as a permanent outdoor museum while freeing their hands to develop the vast, newly-discovered gas resources just outside its lagoon, and the shipping potential of its port.

Cesare De Michelis has bitterly attacked international private restoration funds. "Foreigners can only love Venice if they think it's dying. They are strangling the city with their morbid love. Other cities are allowed to ruin themselves without the rest of the world making a fuss. Why shouldn't we?"

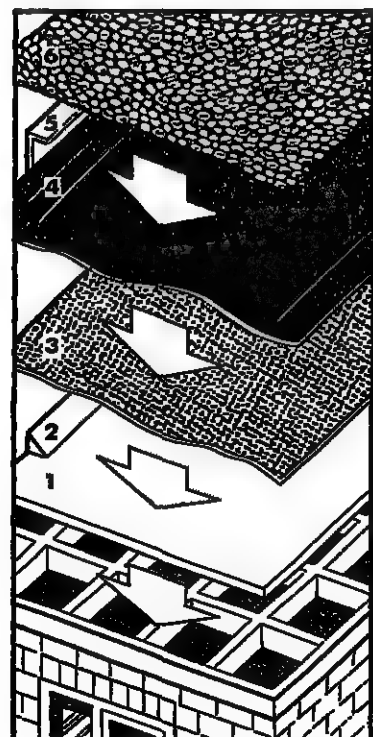
The second item concerns an attempt by Britain to play Machiavelli. The Germans are confident that the claims of Hanover will triumph. On that assumption, Britain has nothing to lose by giving Italy its vote. The vote would be wasted, of course, but would demonstrate what splendid chaps we are, paying off a debt, without actually doing any damage. If that is the game it discounts the closeness of the likely result, and the impact on undecided nations if Britain claimed to see no danger in supporting Expo 2000.

Mr Allan says: "It is our hope that no one ever discovers who votes for whom — a great many steps are taken to ensure that this secret ballot remains precisely that. But of course, it will get out. President Mitterrand has already proclaimed France's opposition from the rooftops. How would Britain ever explain how it gave its vote to barbarism?"

Byron wrote of Venice in 1818: "thy lot is shameful to the nations, — most of all, Albion! To thee: the Ocean queen should not abandon Ocean's children; in the fall Of Venice think of thine, despite thy watery wall."

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Lap of honour

Ferrari mounts an exhibition to make every Italian heart beat faster

Ferrari is an integral part of Italian national pride. After the war, when the country was struggling to rebuild an economy and a national image, the red cars, streaking to every victory after another, warmed the hearts of even those few Italians who took no interest in motor racing.

An institution so important to national image could scarcely be absent from the series of events which have been organized to coincide with the World Cup. Consequently, it has mounted an exhibition of its classic machines from the Fifties and Sixties at the Forte di Belvedere, a massive 16th-century fortress overlooking the city of Florence.

The centrepieces are nine cars, each covered by a large glass cube, not so much to keep the sticky fingers of little boys off the precious carrozzeria, but to maintain constant temperature and humidity inside. This is not over-protection; a Ferrari GTO from the early Sixties recently beat all records for a classic car when it changed hands for \$15 million (£9.4 million).

Because Enzo Ferrari, who died last summer aged 91, insisted that every car built in his tiny factory near Modena had to be sold, Ferrari has had to go to collectors all over the world to bring together such brilliant and historically important models.

The oldest car is a 1948 Barchetta, the car that first put Ferrari on the racing map. Then there are the various Testarossa, GTO, Le Mans, and Daytona of the Fifties and Sixties, finishing with a 1971 512BB, the only rear-engined

car in the show. The rest of the exhibition — the first held by the company, now 90 per cent owned by Fiat — deals with design and production. There are the first sketches of engines, chassis and bodywork, full-size drawings, scale models, the wooden dummies of the bodies used by panel-beaters to hammer the sheet aluminium into complex and voluptuous curves. Most of this material comes from old storerooms at Pininfarina, the Turin body designer and builder who was responsible for almost all Ferrari's bodywork from the early Fifties.

The exhibition, titled *L'Idée Ferrari*, runs until September 30, and is presented with all the grandeur of one of the year's top art exhibitions. Almost inevitably, some of Italy's cultural commentators have entered into a rather futile debate as to whether a Ferrari can be considered art or culture.

Enzo Ferrari, an austere and reserved man who loathed rhetoric, would probably have felt that to describe one of his creations as art is pointless. He was a brilliant, single-minded engineer who simply wanted his cars to go faster than anybody else's, regardless of the cost. He built what were possibly the most beautiful internal combustion engines ever seen and a straightforward chassis or frame to put them in. It was others, notably Pininfarina, who designed and built the bodies.

What today is perceived as beauty was to a great extent a by-product of a search for structural and aerodynamic efficiency, and the result of northern Italy's long tradition of mechanical craftsmanship.

PAUL BOMPARD



Moving sculpture: a classic from the Ferrari stable

THE TIMES ON SATURDAY IN COLOUR

Shabby tribute to the mournful plain: a famous battlefield faces its own Waterloo

Uncover your sexier side... (why keep it hidden?)



New Woman. You can't be one without it.

England does not swing "like a pendulum," it moves lyrically. "London itself has a wonderful, flowing energy," says Gabrielle Roth, a dancer, teacher and experimental artist who believes that staying in touch with rhythms is the way to combat urban stress.

Ms Roth is in lyrical London to explain a dance workout that promises to induce sensations from deepest peace to physical ecstasy. As it involves no pain, strain, discipline or committing to mind of complicated routines, the method has a certain attraction.

Ms Roth, who has developed her dance therapy over 20 years, is concerned with enhancing, rather than escaping, the modern western lifestyle. She regards her philosophy as a form of western Zen, since it is based entirely on moving, in contrast to the stillness of eastern technique.

The principal goal of her methods is to cultivate the intuitive, spontaneous self by exploring the full range of the body's natural movements. In particular, she emphasizes the importance of becoming more aware of the five sacred "rhythms", defined as flowing, staccato, chaos, lyrical and stillness.

At her workshops this weekend Ms Roth will show participants not only how to recognize and make the most of their "base rhythm", but also to bring out the other four latent

Dance away your urban blues



If the spirit moves you: Gabrielle Roth, busy feeling London's lyricism

rhythms, so that all may co-exist harmoniously. This involves practising a wide range of movements of varying styles and speed, from very slow and almost static to wildly abandoned and orgasmic. You make up your own steps as you go along, since there is no right or wrong way.

Improved confidence and better relationships are said to be among the benefits. "The unconscious mismatching of rhythm goes on all the time," Ms Roth maintains. "Lovers or married people get on each other's nerves, unaware that it is because each is operating in different rhythms."

People live in a place that slowly drives them crazy because they haven't caught its rhythm."

If you feel resistance to the whole idea, Ms Roth is not surprised. "People balk at entering chaos and find lyrical often foreign to them," she concedes. But we may be moving towards a kinder, gentler — if abandoned and sensuous — form of exercise. Two dances from Brazil, the Capoeira and Contemporary Afro Brazilian, both of which incorporate elements of mysticism and ritualistic healing, are now being taught in London. Neither requires prior fitness or any special dance skills, and dancers report a deep sense of mental calm coupled with a soaring energy high after each class.

For those who are still sceptical about the need to get rhythm, Ms Roth offers the example of New York, a city which used to move to "an essentially staccato beat, at its best a sharply uplifting, jazzy, syncopated sort of energy". Now New York is too crazed, Ms Roth says. "The people are living in their heads, not their body or spirit, driven by gain. The city has tipped over into borderline chaos."

ALIX KIRSTA

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● Gabrielle Roth is holding workshops today and this weekend at the Lancaster Hall Hotel, 35 Craven Terrace, London W2. For more information contact the Open Gate on 0272 734952.

Singing while the economy burns



BARBARA AMIEL

Skithos: Last Wednesday there was a general strike here of all civil servants. Actually, there is a nationwide strike in Greece about once a week now and very pleasant it is, too, as long as one is prepared. "Would you mind filling up the car sometime today?" asked my host politely at breakfast on Tuesday. "The petrol stations will be on strike tomorrow."

Next day, indeed, the telephone barely worked and the planes landed only occasionally. The newspapers were not flown in, for all I know, Mr Veltsin has led Russia out of the Soviet Union, leaving Mr Gorbachev to rule over Lithuania with Mrs Thatcher's unswerving support. The Greeks, it seems, have discovered that what made Britain great again was a decade or two of continuous striking and they are getting the hang of it beautifully. This is more trying, of course, in urban centres than fishing villages, such as Skithos. Last winter in Athens, strong winds and a mild rain on the ninth day of the dustmen's strike created a bracing atmosphere for Athenian olfactory systems.

Conventional wisdom says this potage is all the fault of years of continual feather-bedding by Mr Papandreou. He assured his election by adding legions of civil servants to the rolls and giving them heavily indexed salaries together with a little light work. This has not only bankrupted the Greek economy, but, equally bad, created a large class of people with no particular concern about the state of the national economy. Now the clerks are miffed. The current prime minister, Mr Mitsotakis, has said he is no longer going to index public sector salaries to inflation (currently about 18 per cent) and that hurt. Hence the strikes.

My own view is that this is only half the story. If one were to set up a rule of thumb about national character, it might be that charm is antithetical to efficiency. I remember George Mikes' celebrated comment that German Jews managed to combine Prussian charm with Jewish modesty. In that vein, one might say that Greeks are too busy being charming to be efficient. They are, after all, not only among the best-looking people in Europe, but remain the most personable. How else, indeed, to account for my happiness in waiting one-and-a-half hours for a vicious looking lobster to materialize on my luncheon plate, except in terms of the

dark charm of the restaurateur whose winning ways exceeded both the delay and the £85 he charged for my meal?

Not all Greek delights are accessible. My one night in Athens ought to be spent at a good bazaar spot. I thought, and so I went off to see Mr Alaftharios Pantazis, assured by the concierge at the Grand Bretagne that Mr Pantazis was the very best singer on the circuit. The taxi driver agreed. "He gets \$10,000 a night," he said reverentially. At about 1am, after a number of energetic dancers and rather

allowing the hurler to display both wealth and masculinity, but I sense that it doesn't go hand in hand with good telephone service.

Earlier in the evening, I stumbled upon an outdoor wedding at a small Greek orthodox church opposite the Acropolis. There was a buzz of lights and cameras. "The groom is one of Greece's most famous journalists," whispered an onlooker. I would have guessed it, actually. There is a uniform look to journalists the world over that goes beyond our chronically soiled appearance and speaks to a small patch of sourness in our souls.

Anyway, just as the couple were saying their vows, a car pulled up and the Greek prime minister jumped out and scrambled up to the church. His arrival coincided with the ending of the Acropolis' *son et lumiere* performances, so there was an awful confusion of dumpy Americans in Reeboks pushing past the prime minister and wedding guests. As I watched the sacred and profane collide, it all seemed rather an easy metaphor for Greece.

In the past year, Greece has seen three elections, four governments, and two — or is it three? — hung parliaments. Strikes rule Greece's economy, anarchists terrorize its citizens and demonstrations led by priests and nihilists clog its streets. Still, the Greeks remain curiously optimistic, even gay in the face of chaos. I don't know enough about modern Greece to comment on its social institutions, but one notes with amazement its mix of a high tradition of civilization and the depressed economy of a Third World country.

Anarchists terrorize Greece's citizens and demonstrations clog its streets. Still, the Greeks remain curiously optimistic in the face of chaos

mediocre singers, Mr Pantazis appeared to tumultuous applause and a volley of tinny pie plates.

Alas, it appears Greeks no longer hurl crockery to demonstrate their enthusiasm, rather they purchase foil dishes filled with gardenias at about £2 a go. The filias at the table next to me bought a dozen of these dishes at a time, hurrying flowers at Mr Pantazis or their dates as the spirit moved them. The first gardenia hit my sallow cheek at about 1.30am. This sort of exuberant display is typically of our Northern people called charming, but honestly I think about an hour of it would drive me out of my mind. It's harmless, of course,

One thinks back to the lengthy civil war in Greece between the communists and non-communists which, in its bloody and awful terror, was almost Lebanese in character. Part of the answer to the Greek riddle, one supposes, may lie in the Middle Eastern influences here. Mr Pantazis' songs, after all, which touched such a chord in his audience, sounded to me like Italian soul in Arab arrangements.

But here, away from Athens, in the pretty hills of Skithos, the only worry is where to put the 7,000 package tour arrivals who will descend on the island daily once high season begins — strikes permitting. Until they arrive, the odd villager mends a net. It's off-season, you see, and residents of fishing villages have to do something, so they fish.

Sins of the father revisited

Gitta Sereny on the private agonies suffered by the children of Nazi war criminals

The high point of the new film *Music Box* is a *crêpe de coeur* from the central character, a naturalized American accused of having been the most atrocious of the murderous Arrow Cross police officers in Budapest in 1944.

"This man couldn't do this — it's not me," he cries in court. "Don't you understand? I'm the father of two American children. I'm... I'm..." and then he faints.

By this point in the film, several transparently honest witnesses have told their ghastly stories, and have identified a photograph of a young uniformed man as the monstrous "Mishka".

What makes this moment so extraordinary is that the director, Costa Gavras, dares to suggest that a changed, perhaps quite another, Mishka Lazlo really may be able, at that moment, to believe he is not that man.

The idea for this film came from the case of John Demjanjuk, where the man accused of being "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka, the concentration camp in Poland, claims it is a case of mistaken identity. But the film is much more than that. M Gavras injects dimensions of morality which make us confront our own innate prejudices, and add to our understanding of almost incomprehensible human conflicts. "I am documenting and transmitting memories," M Gavras says. "This cannot be on one crime against humanity. It has to delve into the awareness of the human



Defending the indefensible: daughter and father in a courtroom scene from the Costa Gavras film, *Music Box*

condition — only this may make us stronger.

Music Box explores the relationship between the mill worker, Mishka, and the lawyer daughter he adores. Defending him before a Jewish judge, she wins the case. But her despair at what she hears in the court, and her father's subtle metamorphosis from refugee humility to Arrow Cross arrogance, force her to take one further step, which produces the unexpected. To those who have known several

"Mishka Lazlo" — or John Demjanjuk — and their families, the central conflicts are achingly familiar.

I knew Franz Stangl best. I spent weeks talking to him in Düsseldorf prison in 1971, after he was sentenced to life imprisonment as an accessory to the murder of hundreds of thousands during his tenure as commandant of Treblinka.

His wife had no idea what her husband was doing until she and their two small girls were allowed to visit him in June 1942. He was then at Sobibor, where his job, he told her as he installed his family in a manor house five kilometres from the extermination camp, was supervising "construction projects".

Two weeks into the holiday a young SS man, tipsy and desperate, told her the truth. The next day Stangl — after assuring her his was merely an administrative job and he was about to be transferred anyway — sent his family home. His transfer was to Treblinka. Thirty years later, in Brazil, Theresa Stangl told me that after Sobibor, she couldn't bear knowing, so she blocked it out. "I never allowed myself to think that women and children had been killed... I had to think like this, in order to maintain our life and, if you like, my sanity. He was an incredibly good and kind father... the children adored him."

When I met Renata, the youngest of Stangl's two daughters, she was 33 years old, slim, blonde, with a delicate and vulnerable face. "He was the best father, the best friend anyone could ever have had," she said. "All I can say is that I have read all that's been written about my father but nothing — nothing on earth — will make me believe that he has knowingly done wrong. I know it is illogical; I know about the trial and the witnesses; and now I know what he himself said to you. But he was my father... I love him. I will always love him."

Gustav Münzberger was the SS corporal in charge of the gas chambers in Treblinka; sentenced to 12 years in 1963, he was discharged six years later, and his son Horst and daughter-in-law took him in. "What else could we do?" said Horst. "He is my father. When they came to arrest him, I didn't know anything. All he was, you know, before, was a little carpenter in the Sudetenland. But when he got that black SS uniform, he changed beyond recognition. And

then, in Treblinka — it is inconceivable, isn't it, what he was brought to believe he was. The power, the uniqueness, the difference between himself and those others. The worst of it," Horst said, "is our children... Dear God, how shall I tell my son?"

And Demjanjuk, whose case is now on appeal in Israel? "If I thought my father served in Sobibor," his son John Jr recently said in an American documentary, "then I could no longer support him."

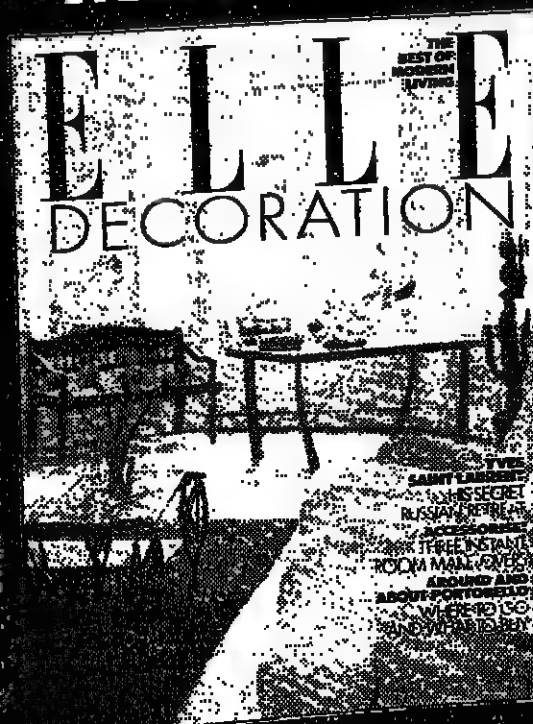
In 1987 I took John Jr and his two older sisters to lunch in Jerusalem. They were — and are — polite, exhausted and very sad. They knew that I had doubts that their father had been "Ivan the Terrible", but, equally, that I was certain he had been part of the murder programme in Poland, as a guard in Sobibor and elsewhere. At that point, I still hoped that something could be done to help that otherwise doomed man to admit to the slightly less damaging truth. "Could you not let him know," I asked, "that even if, as a 22-year-old peasant boy, he was persuaded by the Nazis to serve them, probably without knowing what it was he would have to do, you could still love him?" They were silent, which gave me hope.

But "Your Honours, I'm innocent, innocent, INNOCENT," Demjanjuk stated not long afterwards at his trial — and held out his hand to a survivor of Treblinka, who had identified him over and over as Ivan.

"So what do you say?" I asked M Gavras, whose "Mishka" says "it's not me..." and — perhaps — believes it. "Are the accused in these cases victims, too?" "I think they end up as their own victims," he said. "It is no excuse, no justification — nothing is. I do feel, though, that human beings are subject to the morals which surround them in childhood and the laws which govern their environment in adolescence. "It is perhaps worth remembering that the most civilized society on earth, ancient Greece, was the only country in the world where laws were made by men setting their minds above and beyond religious ethics. I am an agnostic, but I profoundly believe that human beings must individually carve out their destinies. Perhaps that is what memories can help, can teach us, to do."

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ARTS

FINE ART

Summer springs some surprises

John Russell Taylor welcomes the new-look Tate Gallery's bold line on neo-classicism, and finds the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition even more agreeably unpredictable than usual

The first of the Tate Gallery's big set-pieces since the radical rehang, *On Classic Ground* (Millbank, London SW1, until September 2), is a show of passionate, even ferocious, intelligence. The reasoning behind it may be off-putting, but the passion cannot be ignored or resisted.

Under its placid-seeming surface, the show is determinedly contentious. According to the critical orthodoxy of the last half-century there has been one acceptable road for modern art, from Impressionism to Abstraction. Anybody who failed or refused to learn the lessons of Analytical Cubism and went right on with Figurative Art into the Twenties and Thirties was dismissed as retrograde — unless, like Picasso, he was too important to be relegated. That, at least, is how we saw things until the Eighties, when a widespread return to figurative painting triggered a reappraisal of 20th-century art history.

The alternative, figurative tradition, its roots and early branches, is what *On Classic Ground* is all about. In the midst of the chaos, physical and emotional, occasioned by the First World War, the young Jean Cocteau demanded a "recall to order". He meant that artists should renounce the unbridled subjectivity of pre-war art movements such as Expressionism and Futurism, and return to human representation; particularly, to the long-despised Classical tradition.

Cocteau was reflecting his time rather than directing it. Neo-Classicism, however, was primarily the prerogative of Mediterranean cultures, and *On Classic*

Ground sensibly sticks to painters and sculptors from France, Italy and Spain (mainly Catalonia). It is controversial in giving equal space to Spain and Italy. We would expect to see Léger, Derain, the chameleonic Picasso and De Chirico, but we would not expect to see, in the same context, painters as unfamiliar as Sunyer or Casorati, sculptors such as Martini or Gargallo. The point made is that they are unfamiliar precisely because they are not French, and do not fit in with the view that anything important must have happened in Paris.

Even if the reasoning leaves you cold, there is no doubt about the appeal of most of the art exhibited. It is good to be reminded of the monumental side of Matisse, which never loses sight of human values, and the bursting vitality of Picasso's personal recall to order. It is fascinating to see a couple of very early Miró and Dalí, and to observe how good they were before whimsy took over in one case and slickness in the other.

The show has the most impressive of all Carra paintings, "The Daughters of Lot", where the geometry and the Neo-Primitivism are kept in rapt balance (Carra is a painter best appreciated in small doses). The organizers have the wit to hang together a small Cézanne "Bathers" and a Gris pencil copy of just such a painting, to make the connection instantly clear. Anyone who has not before encountered such grand and tranquil works as Felice Casorati's "Silvana Cenni", Achille Funi's "Maternity" or Joaquim Sunyer's "Pastoral", or sculptures as Arturo Martini's "Torso", viewed from the back, has a treat in store.

Also on classic ground, in a rather different sense, is the Royal Academy's 22nd Summer Exhibition (Piccadilly, London W1, until August 19). This year the Academy seems to be pushing the idea of a great leap forward, the definitive welcome into these hallowed halls of Abstraction, to show that at last the Academy is with-it.

It is certainly true that there is more Abstraction around this year, and that it is mixed in with other styles in a sensible way. Moreover, the Academy appears to have convinced a number of our better Abstractionists that its interest is sincere.

Yet the Academy seems sublimely unaware that the trend of the last decade has brought fashion round to it, instead of requiring it to bend to fashion. Never mind. The overall result is a lively and agreeable show, making the Academy's wavering quality control on these occasions seem an accurate reflection of the anything-goes pluralism apparent on the art-scene today.

Some old Academy stand-bys have suffered in the process. The little South Room normally reserved for the smallest and most fiddling, and often most haunting, paintings has let in much fuzziness and vagueness this year, Peter Hodgson's "The Dovecot at Naunton" being a notable exception. The architecture room is dominated by Neo-Classical or Neo-Elizabethan pastiche.

In sculpture, things are looking up, with distinctive work by some of our more uncompromisingly eccentric (and instantly recognizable) artists such as Eduardo Paolozzi and Michael Sandle on view, as well as distinctive pieces



"Maternity", 1921, by Achille Funi, from the *On Classic Ground* exhibition at the Tate Gallery

by relative newcomers such as Ana Maria Pacheco (a giant and intimidating polychromatic head) and Dhruva Mistry (an exquisitely fragile boat in plaster).

Eccentricity is indeed, as so often in the past, the saving grace of the summer show. It is sad to note how many Academicians have memorial displays this year: Robert Buhler, Ruskin Spear, Cecil Collins, Edward Bawden, Betty Swanwick, Feliks Topolski, William Scott. But it is enlightening to note also their extraordinary variety, and the vitality this imparts to their work.

This is the real answer to the Academy's search for a rapprochement with modernism: in Britain, at least, rooted oddity has been the vital force, and it is silly to try to reduce it to order now.

Happily, too, the best of the younger generation seem equally wayward. Look at the tense, subtly violent New York scenes of Bill Jacklin, the Magic Realist pictures of Alfred Whiteley, the heaving, tempestuous landscape-based abstractions of the new R.A., Anthony Whishaw, the coolly immaculate industrial interiors of Ben Johnson, the abstracted land-

scapes of Philip Jones, the weirdness of David Hepher, Mick Rooney and Graham Crowley.

There are too many pastiches of Schiele and Nolde, too many flower pieces some way after Matisse. But there are also genuine Academy lunacies such as Gary James's neo-Holman Hunt "River Market", illusionistically-carved frame and all, and neglected artists such as William Belcher who, with a decent representation, suddenly look pretty good. Amazingly, the Academy retains its ability to surprise, and this year the surprises are mostly very pleasant.

CLASSICAL MUSIC: BATH FESTIVAL

Adventurousness does not have to depend on money

Paul Griffiths commends the budget-conscious quirkiness of a West Country music festival

A lesson from most of our festivals is the banal, dispiriting one that adventurous programming is the first victim of financial stringency. But somehow Amelia Freedman at the Bath Festival is keeping up the engaging off-centre traditions established in the 1970s by Michael Tippett and William Glock. This is, of course, by its architectural nature, a place for classical chamber music, which quite properly forms the bulk of the repertoire, but the Bath Festival now has an identity beyond that of the city (indeed, it has a geography beyond that of the city, spreading out to Bristol, Wells and village churches), and part of its specialness is its serious concern with new music and jazz.

One particularly valuable Bath tradition is that of the mini-retrospective of a chosen younger British composer. This year Colin Matthews was represented by his big musical narrative *The Great Journey* and by several chamber

pieces, including a new work, *Five Concertinos*, commissioned for the wind quintet of the Ensemble InterContemporain, though played in the event with the assistance of Angela Malsbury on the bass clarinet. No explanation was offered as to why the French clarinetist could not undertake the doubling.

Each of the two-minute concertinos is a single musical state with one of the instruments as soloist and also as outsider. The oboe begins, with declamatory insistence recalling its role in Varèse's *Intégrales*. Then comes a sequence of oily bubblings over a prominent motif from the bass clarinet, and a flicking mechanical march with the bassoon out of step. The piccolo leads the ensemble into drifting high chords, and finally the horn sets off an increasingly prickly debate.

All the pieces are neatly made,

and the concertino device helps overcome the problems of sonority and form inherent in this grouping. But it was unhelpful programming to remind us immediately that the same trick had been used by Ligeti in his *Ten Pieces*.

Matthews dedicated his new work to Henri Dutilleul, who was also present at the festival to hear brief moments from his oeuvre. His wife Genevieve Joy played a new piano prelude, *Le jeu des contraires*, and was joined by Florent Boffard in *Figures de résonance*, then the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under Jukka-Pekka Saraste introduced *Mystère de l'instant*, the latest in the endless parade of pieces commissioned by Paul Sacher.

The work is scored for strings with sporadic contributions from percussion and, as in the composer's recent Violin Concerto, a

cimbalom, which provides not only atmosphere in its janglings but also the sense of a giant, distorted pizzicato, a nightmare carried on the floating body of strings. And float the music does. Dutilleul's harmonic language, rooted in flavourous dionysian discords reminiscent sometimes of Ravel or Bartók, lends itself to luxuriation; the quicker impulses tend to come from ostinatos, while the fascinations lie in the colouring: harmonics, glissandos and wide gaps between registers.

Dutilleul has said that he wrote *Mystère de l'instant* as a sequence of improvisations, but in fact the ten short sections are linked into a fluid continuity by the character and essential simplicity of the style, with its emphases on single lines or mass effects, on arpeggiated gestures and on gradual metamorphosis. Even when the penultimate section pays a com-

pliment to the commissioner in transcribing his name, the new motif, because the composer has fitted it into his style, does not ruffle the surface of the dream.

Apart from contemporary music, the Bath Festival this year has drawn some of its special colour from the music of Spain, brought to Wells Cathedral this week by the Escolania de Montserrat. This was the first time the boys from the national shrine of Catalonia had appeared in this country, and they introduced themselves with a programme divided between 16th-century Spanish polyphony and the work more specifically of Montserrat composers during the two centuries that followed.

The chief astonishment, however, was their sound, and in particular the great gap between a lustrous, seamless treble line and a dark, low, almost surly alto part.

when the boys were joined by a group of five tenors, these altos often seemed tied to be at the bottom of the texture.

The 16th-century part of the programme consisted of a succession of short pieces coming to a climax with four by Victoria. In the second half the dominant figure was Joan Cererols, represented by a Kyrie and Gloria, and by a couple of lively vernacular pieces, all usefully given some context by the flamboyant *O vos omnes* of his teacher Joan March.

Most of this part of the programme is to be repeated tomorrow evening in Clifton Cathedral, with a second half completing the history of Montserrat up to the music of the monastery's present musical director, Ireneu Segarra, whose excellence as a choirmaster was already shown at Wells (several of the pieces were sung with total confidence from memory).

On Tuesday, Richard Morrison will be reporting on the Alderburgh Festival's opening weekend.

CRITICS' CHOICE: ART AND AUCTIONS

ART EXHIBITIONS

TROPICAL: Admirers of Adrian George's draughtsmanship, frequently seen in *The Times*, will be intrigued to see his latest, lush work, inspired by a trip last year to the South Seas. Franks Kline, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 071-499 6870, Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 11am-5pm, until July 5.

PICTURED PEOPLE: The National Portrait Gallery's annual Portrait Award has become the BP Award. Otherwise the mixture as before: in parts good, in parts alarmingly awful. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 071-306 0055, Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until September 2.

AMANDA FAULKNER: A powerful, pebbly feminist young painter, Glynnis Barton's ceramic Artists and Green Warriors are harder to pin down. Flowers East (both exhibitions), 159/226 Richmond Road, London E8 081-365 3333, Tues-Sun, 10am-6pm, until July 1.

MAJOLICA REVISITED: Majolica has not been a medium much used recently. Matthias Ostermann's strange figures are legendary rather than folksy. Michaelsson & Oriel, 328 Portobello Road, W10 081-959 4119, Tues-Sat, 10.30am-5.30pm, until June 23.

PATRICK HAYMAN: Anyone who went to his last show at Camden Arts Centre and liked it, will enjoy a further selection. Blond Fine Art, Unit 10, Canalside Studios, 2-4 Oremson Road, London N1 071-739 4383, Tues-Sun, 11am-6pm, until June 24.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

AUCTIONS, FAIRS

THE GROSVENOR HOUSE ANTIQUES FAIR: Arguably the most important antiques event in the world, its exclusive ambience attracts dealers and wealthy collectors from all over the world and the auction houses stage some of their most attractive sales. The Queen Mother, the patron, has lent a magnificent pair of Caneletos from her private collection as the centre-piece for this year's theme, "Italy and the Grand Tour". Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1 071-520 0024, June 14-23, Mon-Fri, 11am-6pm, Sat, Sun, 11am-6pm. Admission, including handbook, £10 (excellent handbook £3, but only applicable on June 23).

THE INTERNATIONAL CERAMICS FAIR: A four-day prestige event devoted to ceramics, glass and enamels includes a trade fair (dealers' exhibits for sale), lecture programme, and loan exhibition. The lecture programme and loan exhibition combine well on recent archaeological finds in Stoke-on-Trent. Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London, W1 071-753 6024, today-Monday, 11am-8pm. Admission £5, fair catalogue £4, lectures £7 each.

OLYMPIAN ANTIQUE: More than 350 dealers are gathered together, vying for trade, at this year's Fine Art and Antiques Fair. Olympia Exhibition Centre, Hammermith Road, London W8 071-370 8211, today, 11am-6pm, tomorrow, 11am-6pm, Sun, 11am-4pm. Until Sunday.

LUCIE RIE: Superb bronze head of this outstanding potter by Hana Cooper, circa 1953, unless two leading figures in contemporary ceramics (see £125,000). Rie, Cooper, Bernard Leach, Elizabeth Fritsch, John Ward, and others also featured, reinforcing Bonhams' reputation as a leader in this field. Bonhams, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London, SW7 071-584 9161, Viewing: Sun, 12-5pm, Mon, 8.45am-7pm, Tues, 8.45am-6pm, Wed, 8.45am-1pm. Sale: Wed, 6pm.

STRADIVARI & SON: A violin by this celebrated maker and another by his son, both of which will make the top money here (the latter is estimated £400,000-£500,000, his son's £150,000-£250,000). Julian Bream has sent seven guitars and lutes for sale. Sotheby's, 34-35, New Bond Street, London W1 071-493 8080, Special viewing: Sun, 12pm-4pm, Tues and Wed, 9am-4.30pm. Sale: Thurs, 10.30am and 2.30pm.

JOHN SHAW

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LET IT THROUGH THE TIMES

THEATRE

Shadow soap-boxing bout

Mark Fisher MP, Shadow Minister for the Arts, has written a stage dialogue, in the West End tonight. He talks to Sheridan Morley



Fisher: His play failed

In a response to a feeling that in the last decade the British theatre has been unresponsive to public events, and that lack of charity should perhaps begin at home, the Royal Court launches a series of staged dialogues this weekend. Writers and commentators, from Julie Burchill to the Bishop of Durham, and from Manfred Karge to Roger Scruton, have been asked to consider the way we live now.

One of the opening contributors is Mark Fisher, Shadow Minister for the Arts and the only likely old Etonian of the cabinet-in-waiting (assuming he manages to secure a seat in it). Fisher's dialogue questions liberal inclinations and attitudes towards censorship, questioning whether the latter is always wrong.

That may seem an unpredictable query to come from a Labour arts spokesman, but Fisher has always been unlikely casting. The son of a Tory MP for Surbiton, he moved on from Eton (where Tam Dalyell was the only other future star socialist of his schooldays) to Cambridge.

"I had vague thoughts of becoming an actor," he says, "until it dawned on me that I never knew what to do with my hands. So then I formed a film group with the sons of Rex Harrison and Roy Boulting, and we got one of our productions into the San Sebastian festival. We also commissioned Harrison Birtwistle's first film score. But a career in critically-acclaimed short documentaries rapidly declined into writing rubbishy thrillers, so I turned to the theatre instead."

That, too, proved something of an anti-climax after Fisher's glittering-prize start at Cambridge. "I got an Arts Council grant of £250 to write a play for the new Horseshoe

Theatre in Basingstoke, and I think it was the only time in Arts Council history that a commissioned play failed even to earn back its grant at the box-office during a run of three weeks. Then I went to Peter Cheeseman's Theatre-in-the-Round at Stoke, intending to write and teach, but that was where the career started to change."

Fisher was offered a job running a Centre for Further Education where, through the early 1970s, he organized artist-in-residence courses and became deeply involved in local politics. By 1981 he was on the Staffordshire County Council and in 1983, at the age of 39, he became MP for Stoke-on-Trent Central. "I belong to that Labour generation which has never known a Ministry: there are only about five front-bench opposition spokesmen who have ever been in office, and only two of those were in cabinet, so it's a new world."

Fisher was given the Arts job in January 1987 and has been shadowing Richard Luce ever since. His earliest policy documents were received with rather less than rave reviews, but the latest looks as though it could run and run. Outlining an Arts and Media Ministry under Labour, in antic-

ipation of a Labour victory at the next election, Fisher promises to pull together all the culture industries (heritage, archaeology, publishing, recording, film, theatre, design and architecture) under one ministry which will also take responsibility for the development of and access to broadcasting, though regulation of that would stay with the Home Office. What this means, essentially, is an arts ministry with (for the first time) its own economic clout, a powerful organization rather than a nominal authority.

Fisher also supports the VAT zero-rating of the performing arts, which would give the RSC alone an extra £1.5 million a year, and he aims to make arts funding the statutory responsibility of every local authority. "I don't plan to set any minimum level of compulsory grant, because if I do that everyone will just stick to the bottom, but there has to be a mandatory requirement on local government to support the arts, and we have to get cultural policies accepted by all the departments of state."

"Just as you can't run a Green policy without the involvement of, say, Transport, we've got to make sure an Arts Ministry spreads, like

Environment and Equal Opportunities, through all departments. Hospitals need good designers and landscape gardeners as well as medical facilities."

But there are notes of caution here too: Fisher is well aware that Kinnock has not yet even guaranteed his arts minister a cabinet ranking. "Labour arts policy is certainly not to issue blank cheques or write off all deficits. We do have expansionist plans, but I still don't believe you solve arts problems by throwing money at them. At the moment a third of Britain's performing companies are trading in deficit, with an accumulated loss of many millions and audiences dropping by anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent as the economy worsens and there is less money to spend on tickets."

"But the arts need management as well as money; when the French managed to double their government subsidy, it took months, if not years, to build an administration which could handle the new money intelligently. I don't want a vast, bureaucratic arts machine, but a small, light-footed ministry to pull together all of the arts and applied industries."

The experience of Glasgow is that a whole city has been turned around by its arts policy. Now we have to do that for the rest of the country, thinking laterally. For 2 per cent of the £550 million it currently costs to run Britain's parks, they could be turned into centres of performing excellence as well. There's a lot to do." And, of course, election to be won.

Mark Fisher's dialogue, at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs, Sloane Square, London SW1 071-730 1745 tonight at 7pm, tomorrow at 3.15pm and 7pm.

ARTS

ROCK ALBUMS

Disconcerting snaps

Aztec Camera: *Stray*
(WEA 9031-71894-1)

THERE is an academic quality about Aztec Camera that extends from the very name of the "group" - in reality nothing more than an *ad hoc* vehicle for the singing, guitar playing and writing of young Roddy Frame - to the heart of the music itself. Frame is one of those gifted performers with a sophisticated musical bent. Like Ray Davies in his prime, he creates finely-sculpted, popular tunes that hang together so comfortably you feel that you have known them all your life.

On *Stray*, the focus of attention has shifted away from the drippy love songs and soul ballad pastiches which typified *Love*, the last Aztec Camera album, released in 1987. Instead, there is a raft of uptempo, rocky material such as "Crying Scene", "Get Outta London" and "How It Is" that is despatched with brisk panache and a rollicking Charlie Watts-style backbeat.

But then, like a radio being flipped at random between stations, the music snaps disconcertingly into the schmalzy, cocktail-lounge ballad of "Over my Head" or the meandering new-wave-contemplation of "Nothing Hill Blues" and "Song for a Friend"; two songs which close the album on a regrettably mellow note.

Most revealing of all is the sudden appearance of Mick Jones on "Good Morning Britain", a virtually perfect pastiche of the Big Audio Dynamite sound. Chameleon-like as ever, Frame blurs the edges of his normally resonant, wholesome voice to fit in with Jones's anaemic mumble.

Frame has the requisite technique and imagination to make *Stray* the desirable artefact that it undoubtedly is, but he tries too hard to be all things to all people. Eventually, one is left wondering what, if anything, his music really stands for.

Steve Vai: *Passion and Warfare*
(Food For Thought GRUB 17)

What is either overlooked or simply taken for granted in the rush to dismiss heavy rock/metal music as some sort of farcical *Boy's Own* aberration is how extraordinarily well-played most of it is. Thus, we may be absolutely confident that a guitarist who has survived stints with Frank Zappa and David Lee Roth and was subsequently employed by David Coverdale to join Whitesnake, is going to know his way round a fretboard.

What does come as something of a surprise is how richly varied, accessible and generally entertaining Steve Vai's solo debut is, considering it is an almost entirely

instrumental collection of tunes played in the hard rock idiom.

The reference points which quickly come to mind are Eddie Van Halen, particularly on the squealing "Erotic Nightmares" and Jeff Beck, whose recording of the Jan Hammer song "Blue Wind" is echoed here on a number called "I Would Love To".

But Vai invests enough of himself in the music to rise above such comparisons, most notably on the gorgeously delicate, twinkling, post-Hendrix arpeggios of "Sisters" and the magisterial Nineties blueswailing textures of "Blue Powder", making this an intelligent piece of work.

Marc Almond: *Enchanted*
(Parlophone PCS 7344)

Once again, dear Marc Almond mints the most exquisitely decadent musical coin from the basest of ores. His lushly orchestrated songs are populated by a rogues' gallery of characters - "Waifs and Strays", "A Lover Spurned", "Orpheus in Red Velvet" - most of them bent over by the weight of their anger, grief or loneliness and all destined to dispense or receive wild extremes of joy and pain.

With his precise enunciation and arch delivery, Almond remains a master of the three-minute melodrama, but the most pleasing aspect of this album is its freshness he has injected into his themes. "Madame de la Luna" has all the vitality of a great traditional show tune, while the graceful Lambda rhythm of "Carnival of Life" sweeps all before it. Most impressive of all is "Death's Diary", a modern parable of considerable wit and insight, with a constantly repeated chorus that has the kind of magical quality that has enabled some folk rhymes to survive for centuries.

James Gold: *Mother*
(Fontana 848 188-1)

Despite freshening up their act with a recent batch of personnel changes, and the canny drafting in of the fashionable Inspirational Carpets as backing singers on the title track, James is still a band which bears the mark of the old, discredited Smiths-dominated era.

Their fourth album, *Gold Mother*, is a solid trawl through the back pages of Sixties' rock, executed with a classic indie-band mixture of carelessness and flair. The hit single "How was it for you?" is by far the best example of their bouncy, ringing pop, but the formula does not always produce material that sticks so firmly in the memory or which is sufficiently distinct to cut through the general clamour of Nineties music.

DAVID SINCLAIR

JAZZ

Not-so-lucky old Sun shines on

David Toop talks to
Sun Ra, supremely
idiosyncratic veteran
US bandleader

Space vibrations have been keeping Sun Ra awake for the past month. "The frequency moves so fast," he complains. Unfortunately, they do not prevent him from falling asleep during one of my questions. His assistant, a quiet young man with dreadlocks, gently touches him to wake him and his eyes open. "I am listening," he says.

Sun Ra has been listening to the space vibrations and painting his musical pictures of infinity for at least three-and-a-half decades. As with everything else in his life, the formation of his first band in Chicago was an event surrounded by deliberate mystification. A photograph exists, dated circa 1956, which shows a group called Sun Ra and his Men, all dressed conventionally in dark suits and striped ties. There are also records from this period, with track titles such as "Tapestry from an Asteroid", "Lullaby for Realville" and "Kingdom of Not".

These science-fiction odes to the future could be linked historically with the percussive blocks of sounds composed by Edgar Varese or the jazz arranging of Todd Dameron and Duke Ellington, particularly Ellington's *Jungle Band* of the late 1920s. They are most unusual in conveying a strong sense of being the first steps in Sun Ra's creation of himself as the central force of a bizarre and self-contained artistic universe.

The US is beset with eccentrics who ordain themselves as the heads of mail-order churches based on UFO sightings. Such visions are rarely constructive, even for their devotees, but Sun Ra's vehicle of creative and philosophical expression, his *Arkestra*, has been maintained, against all the economic odds, in continually changing forms as a touring and recording unit. He is in London, following an invitation to play in Moscow to celebrate the space flight of Yuri Gagarin, and his concert on Sunday, performing on the same bill as Cabaret Voltaire and a Guy Caberlet, will introduce him to yet another generation of rock fans.

This periodic rediscovery of Sun Ra's music seems to coincide with each new phase of ecological



Sun Ra: "Use your imagination and get out of the most drab places by simply holding onto the imagination and making it real."

awareness and spiritual inquiry. Now in his mid-seventies, Ra is not discouraged by the peaks and dips of public enthusiasm. "This planet has always rejected innovation," he says. Commercial record companies occasionally fund a recording but the majority of his album releases - often estimated to exceed 100 - have appeared on his own labels. Labels such as Thoth and El Saturn, sometimes recorded in Solar Fidelity or Galacto-Fidelity, have always been highly desirable collectors' items, but during the last two years a number of releases have raised the Sun Ra profile once more.

A version of "Pink Elephants on Parade", the hallucination song from *Dumbo*, appeared on Ra's recent collection of interpretations of Walt Disney music. Two complementary releases followed. The rock label, Blast First, compiled a selection of rare tracks from the late 1960s, *Out There a Minute*, while the A&M Modern Masters series released *Blue De-light*, a recently recorded album.

Records cannot convey the unique blend of low-budget spectacle, gravity and sly humour contained within a Sun Ra performance. Seated at the grand piano in the reception of his hotel, dressed in robes and a hat which

can best be described as examples of extra-terrestrial Oxfam chic, he drifts into a jet-lagged reverie and improvises a piece which encompasses impressionistic tone clusters, rhapsodic runs, some jazz balladry and hints of Harlem stride pianos. The image is at once absurd and affecting. Few other musicians have created a myth of such dogged thoroughness.

Little is known of his background. He was born in Alabama and studied music. "I never wanted to be a leader," he says. "Even in high school they elected me a valedictorian. I turned it down. I didn't want that because I saw what was happening to lead-

ers. I thought leaders were an endangered species." He moved to Chicago and played in Fletcher Henderson's band, contributing his advanced harmonies and feel for sound. Eventually, the need to lead his own band became too strong to ignore.

"Imagination makes everything nice," Ra says. "Use your imagination and get out of the most drab places by simply holding on to the imagination and making it real." That sums up the most unusual bandleading career of the century.

For details of the British appearances by Sun Ra and his *Arkestra*, see the Jazz listings below.

MUSIC BUSINESS

Small guys grow up and get tougher

Rose Rouse on the fourth Umbrella seminar, a trade fair for the independent record industry

In the late 1970s, the punk movement spawned an alternative music scene. Major record labels no longer provided the only access to making records. Suddenly all manner of obscure little bands were having 500 singles pressed up, which they then sold at their concerts. "Do it yourself" was the key phrase and independent record labels such as Stiff, Rough Trade, and Factory were the result.

However, these days the independent music sector has changed. Only too aware of its unprofessional reputation in the mid-1980s - a difficult period for indie labels when many bands such as Aztec Camera and Scritti Politti forsook the family atmosphere at Rough Trade for

business sense at the majors - the independent labels reorganized and joined the enterprise culture. Consequently, they have become increasingly successful.

"In the mid-1980s, the majors had started to weaken the independent scene by buying up a lot of their bands," says Christopher Williams, chairman of Umbrella, the independent music association. "But the proliferation of independent dance labels has changed all of that." Additionally, bands like New Order, Depeche Mode, and Happy Mondays have made a conscious decision to stay independent. "They have given people more confidence not to sign with a major," says Williams. "Even the decision by PWL [Stock, Aitken, and Waterman's label] to stay independent as a matter of principle has strengthened our standing."

There are now more than 250 active independent record labels in Britain, and although the top five are responsible for most of it, the indie sector accounts for 20 per cent of the singles market and 15 per cent of the album market. Within a £400m music industry,

these percentages represent a considerably larger slice than three years ago. They also mean the independent industry is able to take itself more seriously. This time itself more seriously. This time itself more seriously. This time itself more seriously.

The Umbrella - the association of independent record labels with

independent distribution - started as a pressure group seven years ago. "We got together in response to *Music Week's* arbitrary decision to include records that were distributed by major labels in the alternative charts," says Williams. "We saw it as a move to increase ad-base support for those pages." Two years later, they won *Music Week* over, but by that time they

had discovered a plethora of other mutual complaints.

"Traditionally, organizations like the BPI have made decisions without consulting the independent sector," says Williams. "So you get a situation where an independent record has sold enough to get in the charts. But it's not eligible because it doesn't conform to BPI rules. For instance, it may have too many tracks or it may be too short. Such issues will be discussed in depth at their seminar weekend as will the minutiae of distribution and the television satellite stations.

Bands can no longer walk into Rough Trade with 500 seven-inch singles and expect instant help. "They want the band to handle some promotions themselves and do effective live performances," says Williams. The independent industry is growing up, and the Umbrella seminar should help in this sometimes difficult process.

The fourth Umbrella seminar takes place at the Novotel Hotel, Hammersmith, London W6, on June 16 & 17. More information from 081-991 5391.



Depeche Mode: Made a conscious decision to stay independent

CRITICS' CHOICE: ROCK, JAZZ AND WORLD MUSIC

ROCK

URBAN DANCE SQUAD: Post-hop/heavy rock fends from Amsterdam with a ferocious and compelling live show. Guided by Rude Boy Ramington's whipcrash rape, the band displays a whirlwind of Hendrix guitar quakes, with a bass sound cranked to overkill. Marquee, 105 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (071-437 6803), Wed, 7pm, £5.

THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS: The two Johns from Brooklyn. Their album, *Flood*, came with more than its fair share of blige, but they have charmed audiences with their hyperactive combination of harmony pop, vaudeville and lightweight rock 'n' roll. Irish Centre, York Road, Leeds (0532 480887), Mon, 7.30pm, £6.

GARY MOORE: Heavy-metal guitar whizz who has not spared the horses in his attempts to claim a set of blues credentials retrospectively. He has roped in veterans Albert Collins and Albert King to lend weight to his album, *Still Got the Blues*. Edinburgh Playhouse, 18-21 Greenside Place (031 557 2590), Sun, 7.30pm, £10-£11. Newcastle City Hall, Northumberland Road (091 261 2606), Mon, 7.30pm, £10. Hull City Hall, Victoria Square (0482 226655), Tues, 7.30pm, £10. Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth (0705 824355), Thurs, 7.30pm, £10-£11.

NEW MODEL ARMY: Northern, post-punk, clog-wearing renegades with a slavishly devoted following. Their 1988 album, *The Ghost of Cain*, was an intense and

superlative offering, but they have since gone off the boil. Queen Elizabeth Hall, West Street, Oxford (01865 4072), Wed, 7.30pm, £6. Riverside, 57-59 Melbourne Street, Newcastle (091 261 4388), Thurs, 7.30pm, £6.

THE STRAY CATS: Dependable, over-tattooed, rockabilly dudes featuring the redoubtable chief quiff, Brian Setzer. Town & Country, 8-17 Highgate Road, London WC2 (071-437 6803), Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm, £8.

JOHN MARTYNN: These last few dates wind up a long period of intense activity to promote *The Appearance*, a polished but disappointingly restrained collection. St George's Hall, Hall Ings, Bradford (0274 752000), tonight, 7.30pm, £5.50-£7.50. Lewisham Theatre, Rushley Green, London SE6 (081-690 0002), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £5.50. Crucible, Norfolk Street, Sheffield (0742 789922), Sun, 7.30pm, £6.50.

ALANNAH MYLES: Alluring "Black Velvet" chanteuse, having played support to Robert Plant's dates, now intent on luring him in her own right. Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 711411), tomorrow, 8pm, £5. Town & Country, 8-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (071-284 0303), Sun, 7.30pm, £8.50.

BOO YAA T.R.I.B.E.: Family of grossly overweight Samoan tough guys rappers from Los Angeles, luring a tedious album glorifying violence, misogyny and the good funky beat. Not for the faint-hearted. Town & Country, 8-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (071-284 0303), Tues, 7.30pm, £8.50.

DAVID SINCLAIR

JAZZ

BIG MUSIC FOR A SMALL AUDITORIUM: A self-mocking title for an adventurous Lake District selection of jazz and world music performers: John Surman/John Taylor (tonight), Miroslav Vitous (tomorrow), Steve Williamson (Sun), Andy Sheppard (Mon), Eduardo Eguren (Tues), Eduardo Nogueira & Antonio Forcione (Wed), L. Shankar (Thurs, and June 15), Zefferelli's, Compton Road, Ambleside (0534 33845), from tonight, 8pm, prices vary.

JAZZ WARRIORS: A one-off concert by the all-black big band which has provided a launch-pad for a string of young players. Greenwich Festival, The Borough Hall, 151 Powys Street, London SE18 (081-317 8687), tomorrow, 8pm, £5.

ANDY SHEPPARD: A brief tour with cellist Ernst Reijer, percussionist Nana Vasconcelos and vibraphonist Orphy Robinson. The Pavilion (Information: 0225 463362), Sun, 7pm, £7. Zefferelli's (see above), Mon.

OLIVER JONES: The opening date of the Canadian pianist's tour boasted some uplifting gospel-influenced vamps and Gernereque solos.

Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (071-439 8722), Sun, 9.30pm, £5. Fairfield Halls, Park Lane, Croydon (031-682 8201), Tues, 8pm, £4.50-£6.50. Concorde Restaurant, Storeham Lane, Eastleigh, Hampshire (0703 613969), Wed, 9pm, £7.50.

SUN RA: Popular with a new young audience, the

septuagenarian cosmic shaman serves up more abundant charts. The Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool (051 709 5297), tonight, doors open 8pm, £8. The Mean Fiddler, 28a Harlesden High Street, London (081-981 5400), Mon, 8pm, £8. (see feature above)

ANDREW CYRILLE: The rarely-sighted Free Jazz drummer, best known for his work with avant-garde pianist Cecil Taylor.

The Junction, 10 Grand Junction Road, Brighton (0273 207192), Thurs, 10pm-2am, £4.

CLIVE DAVIS

WORLD MUSIC

PAPUA NEW GUINEA MUSIC VILLAGE: Outdoor performances by musicians, dancers and cricketers from the Trobriand Islands and the Sepik River and Mount Hagen areas of New Guinea. The haunting sound of the Sepik sacred flutes should provide the greatest musical interest.

Gunnery Park, London W3 (081-558 1176), tonight-Sun, tonight 6.30pm, tomorrow and Sun, 6pm, £5.

L. SHANKAR: The virtuosity of this amazing Indian violinist is equally at home with extended jazz improvisations, exotic jazz fusion and cameo appearances with rock stars.

The Haymarket, Belgrave Gate, Leicester (0533 539797), tomorrow, 8pm, £8. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-926 8800), Sun, 7.30pm, £7.50-£15.

CREOLE: Led by Dominican-born Cameron Pierre, Creole combines Zouk, Cadence and Soca into a highly danceable mixture.

Bass Clef, Coronet Street, London N1 (071-729 2476), tomorrow, 8.30pm, £5.50.

NAJMA AKHTAR: A singer with an exquisite voice whose jazz-tinged versions of Indian poetic phrases have a striking originality. Playhouse, Wellington Circus, Nottingham (0602 419419), Sun, 7pm, £4.

CREOLE: Led by Dominican-born Cameron Pierre, Creole combines Zouk, Cadence and Soca into a highly danceable mixture.

Bass Clef, Coronet Street, London N1 (071-729 2476), tomorrow, 8.30pm, £5.50.

VAINE VE AFRIKA: Featuring Tereza Mpedzi on thumb piano, and supported by Donkey Jive.

Willesden Green Library Centre, High Road, Willesden Green, London NW10 (081-451 0294), tonight, 8.30pm, £4.50.

DAVID TOOP

EARLY WARNING

DAVID BOWIE: UK dates: Aug 4, 5, The Bowl, Milton Keynes (071-587 1414/071-582 1626), Aug 7, 8, Main Road Football Ground, Manchester (061 273 3775/071-379 4444), Aug 10, Royal Dublin Society, Dublin (010 3531 795364, information: 010 3531 795311).

FLEETWOOD MAC: UK dates: Aug 25, Main Road Football Ground, Manchester (as above); Sept 1, Wembley (081-900 1234).

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Tempted to extravagance

THEATRE

Temptation Westminster

WHEN Vaclav Havel visited the Barbican Centre a few weeks ago, he had some nice advice for the assembled cognoscenti, literati and RSC people. "If you want your plays properly performed," he said, "become a president". Well, he is no doubt right about productions of his work in Czechoslovakia. Last night, watching James Roose-Evans's overwrought new production of his *Temptation*, I found myself wishing he had a bit more aesthetic power in Britain.

It says much for Havel's passion and skill that his sauric updating of the Faust legend remains so eloquent. Somewhere behind the production's gaudy ad is a study of the moral convolutions of the dissident in a corrupt society. It is interesting because it is interesting, not because its author has achieved high office.

Henry Forster — as Faust has been renamed so that we British can feel accused too — works for a scientific institute devoted to the extinction of all "irrational mysticism". Here, material fact is ultimate truth, yet the definition of both fact and truth depends on "circumstances". Marxism is never mentioned, and does not need to be. Havel is clearly referring to that or any other philosophy which ends by enshrining the socially expedient as objective science.

Anyway, Aden Gillett's Forster is already in the grip of "supernatural" — that is, religious — belief — when he meets Sylvester McCoy's encouraging little Mephistopheles. Disaster soon follows. Denounced by his boss as the

enemy of truth, and threatened with the loss of his livelihood, he reacts with duplicity and more duplicity, like a double agent in a Le Carré novel. He assures the scientists he is infiltrating the ranks of the metaphysicians, and assures McCoy's metaphysician he is infiltrating the scientists. Before long we hardly know what he believes. Nor does he.

The text itself owes something to Franz Kafka and Milan Kundera, but its surrealism is understated and its thrust obvious enough. This is a world of spies and agents provocateurs, lies and evasions, which distorts the decent and punishes the straightforward. A Gretchen figure, anxiously in love with the confused Forster, is summarily fired for the sin of defending him.

There is no need, then, to italicize the grotesque or gild the silly. Yet that is what Roose-Evans has done. The action occurs on and around a pink hospital bed guarded by a leather-overcoated girl with roses and a heavy in dark glasses. The institute's director repeatedly enters to loud patriotic music while smug, toadying boffins throw confetti and wave flags embossed with smiling lips. A conversation becomes a parody show-trial. The actors go in for angular poses, Monty Python walks, weird voices, and comic artificiality galore.

This stylized hype does not touch Gillett's Faust, who is inexplicably content to be big and boring. It does not prevent Frank Middlemass doddering and bleating amusingly through the role of the director, or McCoy giving the performance of the evening: an impish blend of Dudley Moore and Ken Dodd, a dilapidated hobgoblin exuding gothic gentility and flashing wicked smiles.

Yet excess still triumphs. A surprising yet logical final twist is



Impish: Sylvester McCoy (top) with Aden Gillett in *Temptation*

subverted (I cannot reveal why) by the cosmic bangs and flashes that have gratuitously occurred. And a quieter performance would give more point to a coda in which Faust is felled by the trimmers and

tricksters who condemned him, as must be happening to Havel now. How can we feel the irony of the festive hubbub when so much has been hubbub before?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Sara Lilian Baylis

LEATHER-BACKED chairs at the side of the stage where the cellist, violinist and flautist play when not figuring as servants in the action: a single wooden rafter tilted above a grander chair and a small table — these are the precise and simple elements of Nick Ormerod's design for Cheek by Jowl's English premiere of Lessing's bourgeois drama.

Written in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th, its long wait to reach the stage is the more surprising for its evident debt to English models. Characters' names echo those of Restoration drama: Mellefont the rake, with whom the naive Sara Sampson elopes from London to a Dover inn, and Marwood, the rejected mistress, who hastens after them, bent on revenge.

The play is important in European theatre for being the first since the Golden Age of Spain to allow tragic emotions to the bourgeoisie. Nevertheless, it is clear that its author, an ardent admirer of Shakespeare, had not grasped his master's way with comedy. I do not know how

Pollonius would have categorized the play. As tragedy, perhaps, if not falling back on comparisons with mermaids or griffins, creatures that change their nature half way along.

For almost all its length, *Sara* is a witty comedy of passion. Declan Donnellan's direction perhaps over-emphasizes the comedy, but the laughter is unmistakably there in the writing. Sheila Gish could not play Marwood other than as a woman choking over her own fury, a lioness obliged to coo like a dove. Her lines dictate her approach to the role, and she is wonderfully funny.

In the very last scenes of the play, Lessing seems to recall that he intended to write a tragedy, and that his *Sara* (Rachel Joyce) has always wanted to be a murder victim. Out come the slow-acting poison and the death-bed speeches — in this case, her death-chair. Read Rawl's Mellefont, too, decides he is more antique Roman than Londoner.

Although this shift in tone betters the play's integrity, its earlier comedy is zestfully performed. Enjoy it as a rediscovered comedy of manners and let pass what Lessing finally made of it.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Home Work Battersea Arts Centre

A WOMAN tries to induce an abortion with a knitting needle while her husband continues to fill seed packets with seeds. This is the world of Franz Xaver Kroetz, a playwright who makes Samuel Beckett look like an irresponsible optimist. "My characters have no hope for the future. Their problems lie so far in the past and are so advanced, they are no longer in the position to express them."

The deprivation and inarticulacy which define Kroetz's characters are undoubtedly facts of life in advanced capitalist societies. Yet, in the end, there is something preposterous about these characters. Their dehumanization is forced not by external conditions but by the writer's intellectual system. If Kroetz knew these people from the inside he would not portray them in this way.

Penny Ciniewicz, winner of the BAC 1990 Young Director Award, obviously believes in the West German playwright; her production has integrity and she has inspired strong, committed performances from her cast of three

(two adults, one child). Cathy Ryan's attractive set is both too sentimental and too naturalistic to accommodate Kroetz's numbed, deadened figures. Bursts of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* are almost ludicrously incongruous. The result of too much realism is that the knitting-needle business seems not so much shocking as absurd.

Ciniewicz's response to Kroetz's depiction of unbearable monotony is to emphasize it. She has encouraged her actors to vary their tone as little as possible. Within these constraints, Elizabeth Rider's Martha, the wife who cleans all day and comes home to clean in the evening, is a remarkable performance. Her almost reptilian expression of stony acceptance will remain in the memory.

Billy Hartman's Willie looks puzzled, blank and resentful all at the same time. The performance which shows the most resistance to Kroetz's perverse demands is that of Clare Matthews, who cannot help making 10-year-old Monica look intelligent and alive. The tempo is unremittingly plodding, and had me wishing the play would end half-an-hour before it did. Unalloyed bleakness does not necessarily impart significance.

HARRY EVES

DANCE

Northern Ballet Sadler's Wells

IT WAS a case of keeping the best until last with Northern Ballet Theatre's triple bill which opened the company's Sadler's Wells season on Wednesday night. Not that Ronald Hynd's *Liaisons Amoureuses* is a masterpiece, but it is a well-crafted work with a sound structure and a story-line that can be told in dance. It concerns two couples plus a lone gentleman and their relationship, past, present and future.

It takes place in a *belle époque* restaurant overlooking the Eiffel Tower — marvellously indicated in Peter Docherty's stylized décor — and is danced to a compilation of jolly Offenbach tunes arranged by Carl Davis.

There are gallant gentlemen, ardent lovers, a chorus of dancing waiters, and lots of attractive dances which show the cast to advantage without overtaxing them. It made a rousing finale to a rather subdued programme.

Michael Pink has, I imagine, taken his inspiration for *Strange Meeting* from Wilfred Owen's poem written during the First World War.

The all-male cast does a great

deal of leaping about against Les Brotherton's elaborate décor and their costumes rather ineffective strobe lighting.

Finally, when all the participants have removed their blue or khaki tunics to reveal their white undershirts and braces, and presumably their common humanity, they disappear through a brilliantly lit doorway into clouds of smoke. All fairly predictable and leaving me in agreement with a lady in the audience who said: "I felt it should have gripped me, but it didn't."

Gillian Lynne's inspiration for *Lipizzaner* came from the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, although a programme note states that it is

not about the school — the horses are women. The horse effect is maintained, however, by pony-tail hair styles and a great deal of head tossing and pawing the ground. There is some kind of story-line, it would seem, from the anguished gestulating of Francesco Villalich as the *chef d'équipe*, but just what it was never became clear, unless he was warning about the dangers of mad horse disease. The ballet is welcome for its guest stars, Trinidad Savillano and Patrick Armand, but it is a work which makes it easy to understand why some people regard classical ballet as too trivial to be real art.

JUDITH CRICKSHANK

NEW RELEASES

CLEAN AND SOBER (15) Aggressively bleak portrait of the aftermath of a cocaine habit, with Michael Keaton as a real estate executive, Vincent Spanio as his partner, and Michael Keaton as a real estate executive. (15) Warner (01-439 0791).

CREATOR (15) Frustrating black comedy-drama, saved from its misadventure by Peter Onorati as a nutty, scientist trying to bring his dead wife to life. With Michael Keaton, Vincent Spanio, and Peter Onorati. (15) Warner (01-439 0791).

DIAMOND SKULLS (18) Gritty tale of the antebellum South, with Gabriel Byrne as a restless businessman involved in a fatal car accident. Amanda Donohoe, Michael Keaton, and Gabriel Byrne. (18) Warner (01-439 0791).

NOTES ON CITY AND CLOTHES (15) A man's life in a small town, with a woman who is a prostitute. (15) Warner (01-439 0791).

THE PACKAGE (15) Modest thriller given a touch of class by Gene Hackman as a performance as an American sergeant. (15) Warner (01-439 0791).

THREE WOMEN (15) A comedy of sexual rivalry from West German filmmaker Rudi Thoma. (15) Warner (01-439 0791).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET 5: THE DREAM CHILD (15) Robert Englund's vengeful monster tediously preys on yet more children. Grossly polished special effects, but the plot is a thing of shreds and tatters. (15) Warner (01-439 0791).

NUNS ON THE RUN (12) Eric Idle and Robbie Coltrane shattering as nuns in Janet Suzman's convent comedy. Best and funniest: the convent, acted as if it were the conventually zany, from writer-director Jonathan Lynn. (12) Warner (01-439 0791).

THE PUNISHER (15) Routine thriller, based on the Marvel Comics character. A few features added by director John Dahl, but the film is a waste of time. (15) Warner (01-439 0791).

INTERNAL AFFAIRS (15) Richard Gere and Andy Garcia as Los Angeles cops sucked into a vortex of immorality and corruption. Tired thriller, given some kick by director John Dahl. (15) Warner (01-439 0791).

JOHNNY HANDSOME (15) Grating, unsympathetic action flicker from director John Dahl. With Mickey Rourke as a disfigured criminal who plans a double-cross following his escape. (15) Warner (01-439 0791).

KING OF THE WIND (15) Peter Dinklage's performance as a blind man who runs a small business. (15) Warner (01-439 0791).

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THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY (15) A comedy of sexual rivalry from

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National Power

Checks on riot role of inmates' group

By QUENTIN COWDRI
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

JAIL staff have been asked to gather information about a prisoners' group which, prison officers believe, has planned several prison disturbances, the Home Office said yesterday.

An investigation conducted by BBC Radio's *File on Four* programme claims the so-called Prisoners' League Association (PLA) is a growing force in Britain's jails and was involved in planning the riot at Manchester's Strangeways prison. It cites entries from the diary from the association's self-styled "chief of staff" who was in Strangeways' punishment block a few weeks before the riot began — with several inmates who played a leading part in the disturbance.

On the programme, to be broadcast tonight, Mr Ivor Serle, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association's Manchester branch, says the 25-day siege may have been averted had the PLA, which campaigns for improved conditions, been listened to by management.

The Home Office said the PLA had been monitored over the past few years but a spokesman added: "It is a small organization and we have no reason to believe that it has been responsible for masterminding any disturbance in the prison system."

Staff had been asked to pass on information about the group but the data received so far had been "scant".

Mr Adam Sampson of the Prison Reform Trust claimed the PLA did exist but said its influence had been exaggerated. It largely revolved around just a few "politicized" prisoners.

Mr Brendan O'Friel, aged 49, governor of Strangeways prison, has been promoted. He is to become an assistant director in the Prison Service — a post created under a reorganization of the top-level administration of the service.

He will become responsible for a group of prisons, reporting directly to the deputy director general of the service. It is understood the area he will be appointed to has not yet been determined.

His appointment was confirmed yesterday, four days before Lord Justice Woolf's inquiry into the Strangeways riot begins taking evidence in public in Manchester. Mr O'Friel will be a key witness at the inquiry, which will last at least three weeks. He had appeared before a promotion board before the Strangeways riot two months ago.



The statue of J. B. Priestley, the Bradford-born novelist, provided the backdrop yesterday for the launch in the city of the South Asian Dance Festival by members of the Bhaman Centre, London. Mr Prakash Yadagunde and Kumari Nina (left) led a parade through several areas of Bradford

Disappearance of badgers sets puzzle for naturalists

By RUTH GLEDHILL

A PIONEERING wildlife television unit has obtained unparalleled footage of badgers in a century-old sett in the Essex countryside. But the success of the television series, believed to be the first live colour television broadcast of badgers, has prompted naturalists to puzzle over the mysterious disappearance of badgers from the sett and from several others in the area.

In a series of three live broadcasts, the last of which is scheduled for this evening, the BBC Bristol Natural History Unit has used new high technology equipment to video a large family of badgers at a sett in a secret location in Essex.

The badgers, which have been gradually accustomed over the last few weeks to the television lights and the scent of the cameramen, emerged as if on cue to feed in time for the first 20-minute broadcast on Wednesday night.

Mr Don Hunford, retired scientist and chairman of the Essex Naturalists' Trust, has been monitoring the one-acre sett for more than 30 years. Up to 25 badgers, many of which know him and will take food from his hand, live in the sett at any one time. A community of that size could expect to have up to 10 males but Mr Hunford has seen

hardly any this year.

"It could have something to do with the weather, or it could be a result of territorial fighting," he said.

He said four female badgers had produced eight cubs this year, compared with none last year and one the year before, indicating the community was healthy. He has known some badgers to live more than 10 years but the sett incurs heavy casualties from nearby road traffic.

A small three-inch long



Mr Hunford: 30 years' study rewarded

remotely-controlled pencil camera is the innovation that has made possible the close-up shots of a badger's snout snuffling towards the camera.

The badgers have been persuaded to arrive "on set" at the correct time each night with morsels of peanuts and wholemeal bread, although their favourite snack has proved to be digestive biscuits.

Assistant producer Mr Robin Prytherc said: "We knew that if we tried carefully, we would get the co-operation of the badgers. The extraordinary thing is that the badgers seem to come and go as if there were no lighting."

The programme takes place against a background in which the badger, a protected species, is in serious decline. Many thousands are believed to be killed each year by badger-baiting. In Essex, one third of the setts have disappeared since the early 60s and half of the remaining setts had no badgers in, according to a recent survey. In the House of Commons, a private member's bill is being debated which could give them more protection by making it illegal to destroy their setts for development.

Badger Night, The Solutions? BBC2 tonight, 10.10pm

Thatcher's new vision of Nato

Continued from page 1

placement of the 35-Nation Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) as the main forum to build trust and confidence between East and West.

The speech marked Mrs Thatcher's own transition from the Iron Lady phase as she declared: "The countries of Eastern Europe are reaching out to the West. We no longer think of them as potential enemies or as part of a wider threat to our way of life. They are friends in need of help, wanting to return to their rightful place in Europe."

She added: "The world is changing faster than our ways of thinking. We need to be more imaginative and work on a bigger canvas."

For President Gorbachev, who the next day for four hours of talks today, and for his military high command, whom she will see this afternoon, there was reassurance that her insistence on Nato's continued existence should not be seen as a threat.

The speech was clearly designed to counter the claims of those who argued, like Mr Gorbachev, that in the face of the crumbling Warsaw Pact military alliances were no longer required.

She declared in characteristic terms: "You don't cancel your home insurance policy

just because there have been fewer burglaries in your street in the last 12 months."

Calling Nato the most successful alliance in history, which had "deferred war without ever having to fight a war," Mrs Thatcher said: "We are probably more secure than we have ever been." But secure defence had to be maintained and that required forces and weapons, not just fine words.

Greater emphasis on Nato's political role and on activities such as arms control and verification "should make it easier for the Soviet Union to come to terms with Nato's continued existence and German membership of it."

The CSCE, which could never be a substitute for Nato, could be built up as a body in which political and security issues affecting Europe as a whole could be discussed.

LABOUR'S acceptance of home ownership was sealed yesterday when Mr Bryan Gould admitted there was no special merit in public sector housing.

Mr Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, dismissed the party's past opposition to policies giving council house tenants the right to buy their homes. The party's previous preoccupation with the need to provide social housing had blinded Labour to people's desire for home ownership.

If people wanted to become home owners, they should be helped just as willingly as

Political sketch

How the stand-in was stumped

"In view of the link between bacteria and French brie cheese," asked James Coughman (C. Gillingham), "the hallucinatory effect of French wine, the carcinogenic effect of Perrier, and the transmissibility of mad frogs' disease, will the Leader of the House make contingency plans to impose a ban on all French products?"

Sir Geoffrey chuckled. Ho ho! Why, standing in for the PM while she was away was rather fun! A doddle, really. He had an answer ready about the EC settlement, but did not wish to appear humourless. He turned to colleagues with an indulgent smile, before reading his brief.

They loved it. "Hear, hear!" shouted Tories, as Sir Geoffrey told them the news from Brussels. PM's Questions had got off to a smashing start.

And he had felt so nervous beforehand! It had been hard to sleep, last night. What if they should bowl him a googly? What if he should stumble over his notes, or get the pages muddled? What if a Tory backbencher should try to stab him in the back? She always seemed so cool at the Dispatch Box — always ready with the facts. How she would sneer if she returned from Moscow to be told the old boy had muffed it. He could hear her now. "Geoffrey — we just leave you to look after the shop for one afternoon, and things go wrong. Really! Must we do everything ourselves?"

Still, Kinnock would be away. His deputy, spluttering Roy Hattersley, would face Howe. No problem, surely? Geoffrey rose early, washed carefully behind his ears, and chose his best wool suit, in mid-grey. Elspeth returned from spending the night in a box "silly old girl," he thought, "will, good to have a family with minds of their own" in time to iron his best white shirt, and select a blue tie with white spots. Perfect. Lady Howe checked his fingernails and off he went.

He was at Westminster far too early. Still, plenty of time to re-read the reams of "defensive briefing" the PM's people had given him, to prepare him for anything MPs threw. CONTINGENCY: Labour trumpet their generosity, said a note.

Of anything he'd heard, he said "that passes all records for stupidity." Wild cheers from his mates. What fun!

But why was Hattersley nodding? Anxiety clouded Howe's chubby features. His foe rose, smiling. Yes, agreed Hattersley, it was a stupid question. "Even more stupid than you made out. So you will tell the Tory Chairman to stop asking for predictions of the level of tax under a Labour government."

Labour roared with triumph. He had handed them a quote ("passes all records for stupidity") to trump the Tories every time they called on the Opposition to cost its policies.

Sir Geoffrey never recovered. In Moscow, Mrs Thatcher was smiling at the news. "Now they know, Labour does better without Kinnock. And the Tories can't do without me."

RESPONSE: Ask how much a Labour Chancellor would have to put up taxes.

"Good stuff!" he exclaimed. "Must remember that one."

CONTINGENCY: Backbenchers press for commitment to reduce tax rates. RESPONSE: Remind House that governments cannot forecast Budget decisions.

"Quite," thought Geoffrey. "Best to play safe. I know. Been Chancellor myself."

The great conundrum at 3.15 drew near: but "Look confident!" he thought. So he waited till 3.12, then sauntered in. "One up on the PM, then!" She's always hours early," he had smiled.

And now it was all going so well. He felt ready for anything. Come on then, Roy, let's be having you...

Hattersley rose ponderously to his feet. "Would the Leader of the House tell us what will be the standard rate of income tax after the next Budget?"

Geoffrey blinked. What a stupid question! This was almost too easy. He remembered the answer in his brief — "can't anticipate, etc..." — but why play a long-bow with a straight bat? Hit it for six! For the first time in years, he felt a rush of excitement. He stood.

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MATTHEW PARRIS

Labour embraces home ownership

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S acceptance of home ownership was sealed yesterday when Mr Bryan Gould admitted there was no special merit in public sector housing.

Mr Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, dismissed the party's past opposition to policies giving council house tenants the right to buy their homes.

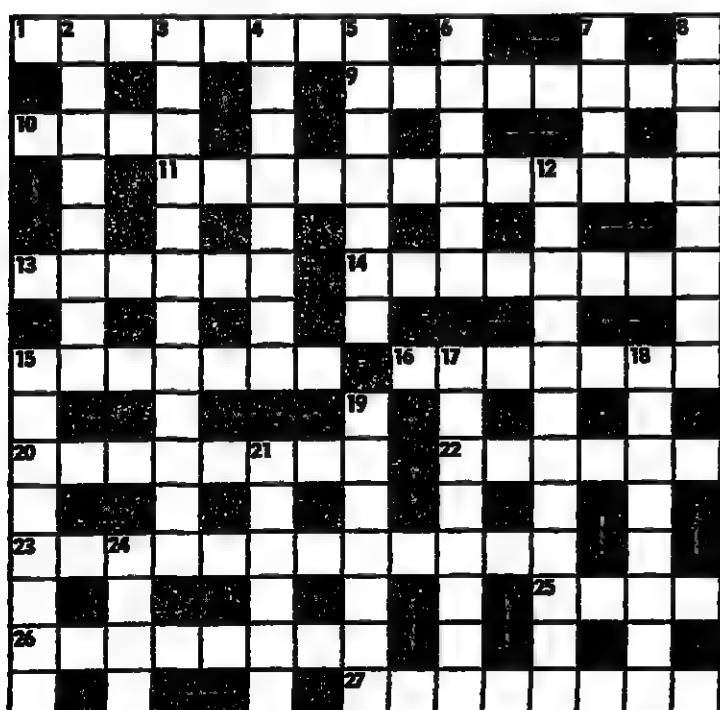
council house tenants the right to buy their homes. The party's previous preoccupation with the need to provide social housing had blinded Labour to people's desire for home ownership.

If people wanted to become home owners, they should be helped just as willingly as

those who wanted to remain tenants.

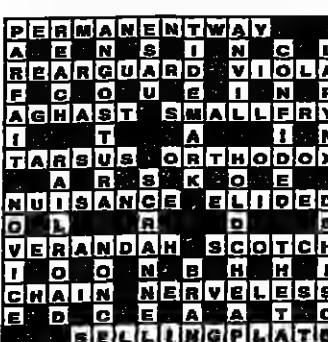
Mr Gould, speaking to the Building Societies Conference, clearly intended to distance Labour from its image as a party solely concerned with council estates and to portray it as accepting right-to-buy policies.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,315



- ACROSS**
- Character on the staff of Peacock's castle (8).
 - Ditch beside which soldiers are cut down (8).
 - Against appearing in Romantic opera (4).
 - One who painted relatively late in life? (7,5).
 - Respect one coming out of a brown study (6).
 - Escort takes tea with Argentinian actress (8).
 - Impetuous person has stolen the crown? (7).
 - One of several allowed to go on an excursion (7).
 - Inferior writer rejected an order from the court (8).
 - Ignominious failure obtained if returning with course uncompleted (6).
- DOWN**
- A stock-farmer managed her business externally (8).
 - Impetuous — liable to do anything like a shot? (7,5).
 - Woman seen outside a bar before a dance (8).
 - Run down by traffic outside University College's entrance? (7).
 - Social grades upset loose woman in South Africa (6).
 - Responsibility concerning the present compiler and solver (4).
 - A case supported by teachers? It's an old joke (12).
 - Potter's art? (3,9).
 - See hippo running wild as a water carrier (4,4).
 - Eg. Cranmer's advent seen around most of Rome, perhaps? (8).
 - Many a vessel in the river is mine (8).
 - Cavalrymen's quadrille (7).
 - This man makes the King retreat (6).
 - A long time, with or without capital (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,314



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- SPADEPOON**
a. Light cavalry squadron
b. Fear of a suit at poker
c. A cut-and-thrust sword
- KATAKANA**
a. Ritual Trobriand cannibalism
b. A Korean martial art
c. A Japanese syllabary
- SCHLICH**
a. Cracked ore
b. A jump turn at sailing
c. A twig beam
- COMPOSANT**
a. St. Elmo's fire
b. A dead snail presumptive
c. Fine white communion bread

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

- London & SE traffic, roadworks**
C. London (within N & S Cires) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M25 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736
- National traffic and roadworks**
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
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204228 (printed at midnight)

WEATHER

Rather cool, showery and unsettled across the country. Southern England and all of Wales will be cloudy with showers. There will be some sunny spells particularly in the south-east but showers will develop later. Northern Ireland and northern England will be cloudy with showers. Scotland will be cloudy, with showers over the north and west. Strong winds in many western parts. Outlook: Staying unsettled.

ABROAD

Monday: 1-10: cloudy; 11-12: fog; 13-14: sun; 15-16: sun; 17-18: sun; 19-20: sun; 21-22: sun; 23-24: sun; 25-26: sun; 27-28: sun; 29-30: sun; 31: sun.

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BUSINESS

FRIDAY JUNE 8 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

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- MOTORING 41
- SPORT 42-48

Banks call in receiver at Coloroll

By MARTIN WALLER

COLOROLL, the home furnishings group, collapsed last night, putting 8,500 jobs at risk, after the banks to which it owed more than £140 million called in the receivers.

Mr Nigel Hamilton and Mr Bill Roberts, of Ernst & Young, the accountants, have the grim task of dismembering the group built up by Mr John Ashcroft, and will attempt to settle with its creditors. It is thought unlikely that shareholders will receive any return.

Coloroll's demise after a long and painful struggle was signalled at lunchtime, when the shares were suspended at 6/4p "pending clarification of the company's financial position."

The appointment of Ernst & Young came a couple of hours later and was no surprise to the market. The shares peaked at 373p before the market crash, when the company was capitalised at £750 million.

A rescue package being put together by Candoover Investments, the management buy-out specialist, would have involved the purchase of Coloroll by a new unquoted company, so diluting existing shareholders' interests. It fell apart at the end of last week, leaving the consortium of

supporting banks, led by the National Westminster, no option but to pull the plug.

Coloroll operates from 19 sites, mainly in the North of England and in Scotland. Analysts believe that large chunks of the business are still viable and could find ready buyers. Coloroll having been brought low by its huge corporate debts. As well as the £140 million it has admitted owing, there are further contingent liabilities that could bring the total as high as £200 million.

Mr Kenneth Marks, formerly with Debenhams, one of the group's biggest customers, replaced the flamboyant Mr Ashcroft as chairman on his abrupt departure in March. Mr Ashcroft had been one of the brightest stars of the 1980s, admired by the Prime Minister for his entrepreneurial skills.

Mr Marks said last night: "We've had approaches for virtually every part of the business - except the head office. I've no regret about it all because I really believe that in that period we kept the business together."

SG Warburg, its merchant bank, had been trying to put a rescue package together for Coloroll since the beginning of the year, when a warning on profits and possible contingent liabilities made it clear

the company could not survive in its present form. A spokesman for the bank said of the negotiations with Candoover: "The more they looked, the less they liked. There wasn't enough in the company. There are still a number of good, sound businesses which will, I'm sure, find buyers."

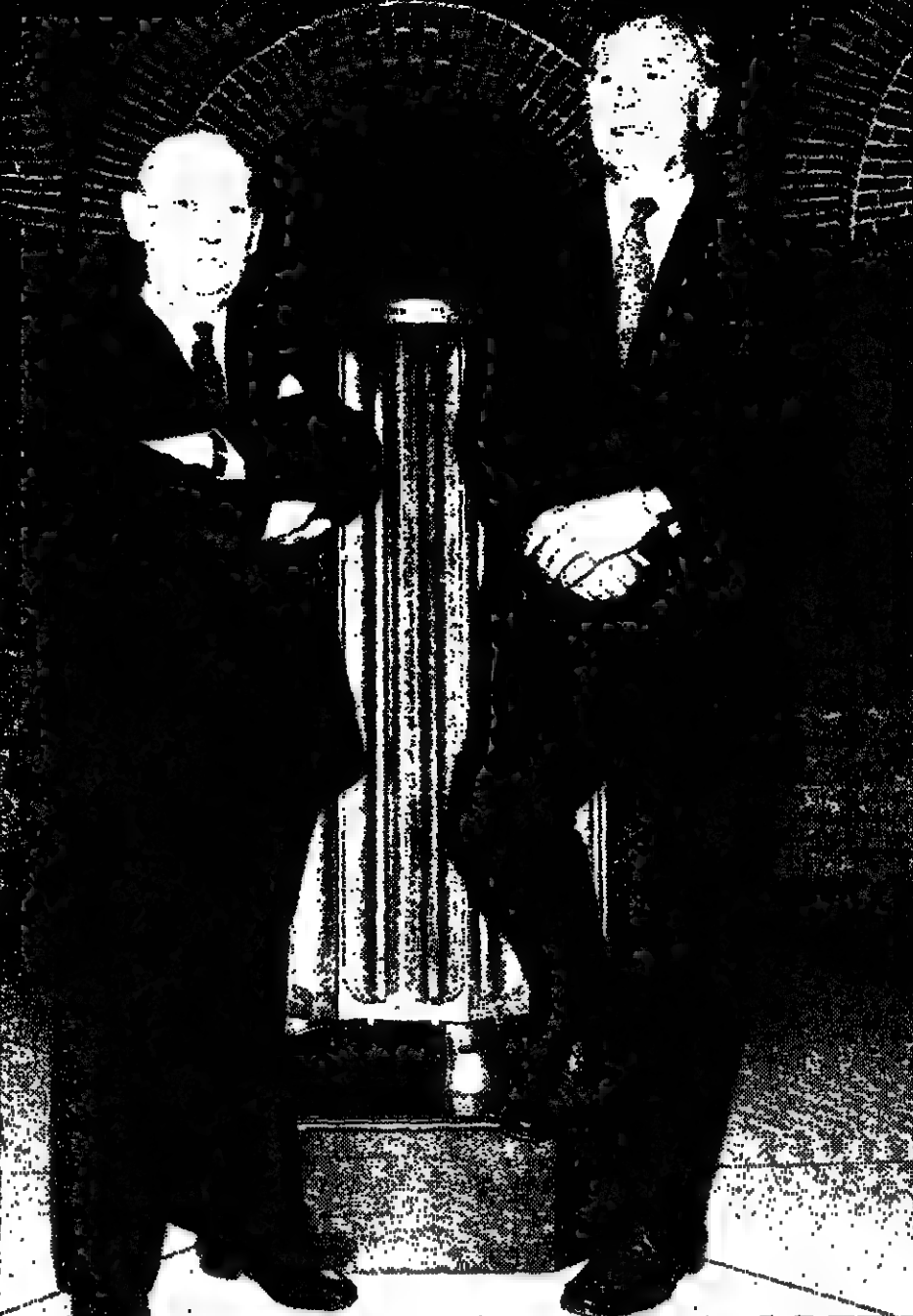
The view in the market is that a number of potential buyers have delayed coming forward in the hope that the company would slide into bankruptcy, allowing them to buy at knock-down prices.

But given the mountain of debt and the worsening trading environment in the home furnishings sector, some analysts doubt whether trading profits are covering interest payments. One said: "It must have reached that level, because the revenue simply wasn't there. Their stock levels were very high, and what they had to do is sell carpets and whatever at deep discounts. I think some of the accounting policies that Coloroll has used might be seen as slightly optimistic."

Mr Nicholas Jones, of Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank which was acting for Candoover, said: "There were some good businesses in the company, and also a large pile of debt. In the end, there wasn't a structure that fitted."

Climb helps Boots shine

JOHN CHAPMAN



Better-than-expected results: Robert Gunn (left), the chairman, and Sir James

Warrant out for Dunsdale director

By JON ASHWORTH

A WARRANT has been issued for the arrest of Mr Robert Miller, the director of Dunsdale Securities, the investment firm suspended this week, amid growing fears that up to £20 million in clients' money may be at risk.

The company was placed in provisional liquidation yesterday, at the request of clients who had been unable to either contact Mr Miller or withdraw their money. Mr Raymond Manning, insolvency partner at Stoy Hayward, and Mr Harold Sorsky of Sorsky Defries, the accountants, were appointed joint liquidators and immediately visited the company's Park Lane offices.

Stoy Hayward said that the company had been placed in liquidation on application to the Court by various creditors. It said Mr Hocking had taken possession and control of the company's premises and records and had commenced his investigation into the whereabouts of its assets.

Fraud Squad officers under the direction of the Serious Fraud Office were also at the premises and were working in conjunction with the liquidators.

A private meeting of creditors is due to take place at the firm's offices on Monday. Mr Miller's whereabouts are not known, but he is believed to be abroad.

Mr Sorsky said that the police had removed certain files and documents from the company's premises and that the liquidators were preparing a list of creditors.

Serious money, page 27

Lloyd's chief to step down next year

MR MURRAY Lawrence, chairman of Lloyd's of London, is to stand down as chairman next year. A Lloyd's statement said its council would propose Mr David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's underwriters Sturge Holdings, for election as his successor.

For the past eight years, Mr Lawrence has served as deputy chairman or chairman.

Investment plans fall to new low

Investment intentions in the retail, wholesale and motor trades last month fell to an all-time low as the government's counter-inflationary squeeze forced firms to look for new economies, according to the latest Confederation of British Industry survey.

Comment, page 27

Pilkington slips

Pilkington, the glassmaker, struggled against tough conditions in most of its leading markets to produce pre-tax profits just 3 per cent down at £314 million in the year to end-March.

The group is paying a second interim dividend of 7.57p, making a total for the year of 10.5p, a rise of 10.5 per cent against the previous year. Earnings per share, at 25p, fell 8 per cent.

Temper, page 27

Johnson's cuts

More than 1,500 jobs are going at Johnson's, the ceramic tiles company, about 1,000 of them in the UK. Johnson's parent company, Norcor, is writing off £13 million in connection with a reorganization of the business. The provisions form the bulk of the £20 million of extraordinary items contained in the Norcor results for the year ended last March. Pre-tax profits plummeted from £66.9 million to £37.3 million, but the board is paying a final dividend of 11p a share, holding the total at 16p.

Temper, page 27

Chairman dies

Mr Edgar Palamoutian, the chairman of the Wider Share Ownership Council, died on Tuesday, aged 72. He was a former chairman of M&G, the largest unit trust group in the UK.

Obituary, page 16

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8980 (same)
W German mark 2.8553 (+0.0068)
Exchange index 69.5 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1904.0 (+23.0)
FT-SE 100 2378.4 (+19.8)
New York Dow Jones 2895.87 (-15.78)
Closing Prices ... Page 37
Major indices and major changes Page 35

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank 15 1/2-15%
3-month callable bills 14 1/2-14 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 9 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7 1/4-7 3/4%
30-year bonds 10 3/4-10 3/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £: \$1.8980 £: \$1.8980
S: DM 2.8553 S: DM 2.8553
S: SwF 2.4274 S: SwF 2.4274
S: FF 6.5191 S: FF 6.5191
S: Yen 162.51 S: Yen 162.51
S: Index 57.6 S: Index 57.6
ECU 1.93694 SDR 1.77887
ECU 1.93694 SDR 1.77887

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$353.25 pm \$352.80
Close \$353.00-\$353.50 (2209.00-2209.50)
New York: Close \$354.00-\$354.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$15.85 bbl (\$15.65)
Denotes latest trading price

FOUR STAR

Bank	Rate
Australia S	2.32
Austria Sch	20.9
Belgium FF	2.05
Canada \$	1.94
Denmark Kr	11.39
Finland Mk	6.82
France F	10.03
Germany DM	2.75
Greece Dr	386
Hong Kong \$	13.75
Ireland P	7.15
Italy Lira	207
Japan Yen	162.5
Netherlands Gld	3.325
Norway Kr	11.48
Portugal Esc	200
Spain Ptas	164.5
Sweden Kr	10.14
Switzerland Fr	2.63
Turkey Lira	485
USA \$	1.898
Yugoslavia Dnr	24.00

Rates for all denominations bank only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 125.1 (April)

Jobs saved as Prust is closed

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CCF Laurence Prust, the institutional stockbroker, has been forced to close after its management failed to agree the terms of a buyout with Crédit Commercial de France, its French banking parent.

CCF has, however, saved many of the 80 jobs by negotiating staff transfers: a corporate broking team will join Schroder Securities, while Brown Shipley is negotiating a joint venture with the institutional equity sales staff.

Most of Prust's other employees will be moved into CCF's growing corporate finance and asset management businesses. CCF is also planning to start market-making in French stocks in London. Despite this, the bank estimates that 30 jobs will be lost.

Prust, which lost £1 million last year, had only 0.7 per cent of the City's institutional equity business. Mr Anthony Greayer, head of CCF's London operations, said this was the cause of the management buyout's failure.

"Whenever way we looked at it," he said, "a company with this market share was in a very difficult position. The big brokers are putting a lot of money into keeping market share, and we could not see the value in keeping a small distribution business."

The two staff transfer deals contrast with the sudden closure of other stockbroking firms, and will come as a relief to dealers who were expecting to lose their jobs.

Under the terms Mr Edward Cunningham-Bruce, the head of corporate broking, will take a team of at least seven to Schroders, hoping to retain many of Prust's 77 corporate clients.

Retailer fails after 50 years

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

A GOLDBERG, the Scottish retailer, has gone into receivership, threatening at least 1,000 jobs. The group, which has been a quoted company for more than 50 years, called in the receivers after negotiations on a reverse takeover with the Lewis's stores group Fletsand fell through.

For the year to March, the group, which includes Wrynges, Schuh and Ted Baker, made a trading loss of £9.6 million, before interest of £1.1 million and provisions for exceptional items. There are debts in excess of £5 million.

Mr Mark Goldberg, the group's chairman and the third generation of his family to run the business, broke the news to the company's employees yesterday. Goldberg shares were suspended in the morning at 37p, valuing the group at £3.3 million.

Goldberg had been struggling for some time, and at the beginning of the year appointed a new chief executive, Mr Adrian Atkinson, who announced plans to close up to half the group's stores and lay off more than 300 staff. Three months ago Mr Jeff Banks, the designer, was appointed in an attempt to revive the group's fortunes, but it was too late. For the last



Mr Goldberg broke news week the company has been in

talks with Fletsand, which holds 25 per cent of the company. Yesterday the board said it was not possible to conclude a deal "despite strenuous efforts to secure additional funding, and to conclude the acquisition on commercial terms that would have safeguarded the future of the enlarged group."

Last year, Goldberg fought off a £32 million paper bid from Blacks Leisure, itself a troubled retailer. The group's main problem stemmed from an ambitious expansion programme in the South at the time of the consumer boom in the mid-1980s, which left it with expensive commitments on unprofitable shops.

UBS Phillips settles

THE Institutional Shareholders' Committee of the Stock Exchange, which has been handling compensation negotiations arising from the Blue Arrow affair, announced that UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, had agreed to settle

ment terms. The offer is 10 1/4p per share for shares that would have been taken up if there had been a call on the sub-underwriters and 41p for other shares taken up in the placing. County NatWest has already settled.

Retailer improves 16.7% to £358m

By OUR CITY STAFF

BOOTS, the retail group, produced higher-than-expected pre-tax profits of £358 million in the year to March. But the City was disappointed with the results produced by Ward White, which Boots bought for £900 million last August.

The Ward White businesses, including Halfords, Payless and AG Stanley, contributed £39 million in seven months, against analysts' expectations of more than £45 million. Part of the shortfall was due to a switch by Boots to more conservative accounting policies.

The City was also disappointed to see that earnings dilution last year was about 10 per cent, and analysts expect a similar level of dilution this year. At the time of the original bid, Sir James Blyth, the chief executive of Boots, said there would be no dilution. However, he said yesterday that since then the group had increased its offer and there had been a rise in interest rates.

Pre-tax profits for the group rose 16.7 per cent on sales up 25 per cent at £3.38 billion. Earnings per share rose 12.8 per cent to 25.5p and the final dividend is 7.15p, making a total of 11p, up from 10p. Property profits rose 18 per cent to £54.4 million.

The star performer was Boots The Chemist, with better-than-expected profits of £190 million, up 25 per cent. The pharmaceutical division made profits of £111 million, up 16.6 per cent. The group has applied for registration of Manoplax, its heart drug, in Britain and the US. Children's World incurred a £6.4 million loss, the same as last year.

Second property investor suffers decline British Land net assets fall

By MATTHEW BOND

BRITISH Land has become the second property investment company to report a reduction in net asset value.

Mr John Ritblat, the chairman, said British Land's net asset value per share fell from 531p to 492p in the year to March, a fall of more than 7 per cent.

Earlier in the week a 3.3 per cent fall in net asset value reported by Great Portland Estates sent shares tumbling. But yesterday the sector showed more resilience.

Although British Land slid 15p to 318p initially, it recovered to close unchanged at 333p. Other leading investment companies gained ground with Great Portland Estates adding 6p to 249p,

Greycoat 9p higher at 408p, Land Securities 8p better to 509p and MEPC up 14p to 508p.

According to its independent valuers, the value of British Land's City properties fell by 10 per cent in the year to March.

That figure compares with the 12 per cent fall reported by Great Portland and a 2.75 per cent reduction reported by Land Securities.

Pre-tax profits fell sharply, down from £69.5 million to £44.8 million.

The interest charge more than tripled to £29.7 million. An additional £2.5 million of interest was capitalized, following the group's cautious view of property development

currently. Net rents increased by 52 per cent to £63.9 million.

At the end of last year, Mr Ritblat had to withdraw plans to restructure British Land, following opposition from institutional shareholders, which felt his scheme to split the old British Land into two new companies was too generous towards the Ritblat family.

Mr Ritblat said that the company was still looking at ways of restructuring. A final dividend of 5.25p a share is being paid, a 75 per cent increase over last year's 3p, but that reflects the lack of an interim dividend passed at the time of the abortive restructuring plan.



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Lonrho falls to £110m at half time

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

LONRHO'S pre-tax profits fell from £120 million to £110 million in the six months to end-March. But the international trading group, of which Mr Tiny Rowland is chief executive, said underlying profits from operations had risen by 34 per cent.

Last year, interim profits were boosted by £38 million above the line from the sale of whisky stocks, which coincided with the sale of the group's spirits and fine wines division.

A second interim dividend of 5p has been declared. Allowing for a one-for-10 scrip issue, this makes the equivalent of 8.3p so far, up 10 per cent from a year ago. Earnings per share, after a notional tax charge, are 9p, against 11.6p a year ago, which included 4.1p from the whisky sales.

Profits are not broken down at the interim stage, but Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said the group's African platinum interests were the dominant factor in profit growth and that other African interests had done well.

In Britain, Lonrho says its manufacturing and motor distribution companies, which include Volkswagen and Audi imports, Jack Barclay and Dutton-Forsyth, were affected by the downturn in the economy. Worldwide, motor trading profits were up, but manufacturing profits, mainly

textiles and steel, were lower. Metropole Hotels, the British hotels group, increased profits by 30 per cent, however, thanks to rapid expansion on its four main sites in London, Birmingham, Brighton and Blackpool. The quality market hotels in the Americas had variable results.

The group's Scottish newspaper interests, principally *The Glasgow Herald*, increased profits. No mention is made of the *Observer*, which is thought to have suffered from competition from new entrants in the national Sunday newspaper market. Mr Spicer said newspapers as a whole made a profit.

On the Continent, Lonrho's German-based associates Krupp Lonrho and Kühne & Nagel, the freight and forwarding group, also continued to increase profits. Lonrho is putting much of its European effort into further expansion in Germany. Altogether, associates contributed £21 million against £12 million a year ago.

City analysts, who have been forecasting pre-tax profits of about £270 million for the full year, found the interim results better than expected. Lonrho makes no forecast. But Mr Spicer said that if the platinum price held up, "our mining profits should be terrific." Lonrho shares rose the less lost 2p to 255p.

Food group defies scares

JOHN CHAPMAN



Christopher Haskins: keen to invest

NORTHERN Foods, the Hull-based food manufacturer, braved the various food safety scares to turn in pre-tax profits ahead of £85.3 million to £90.2 million in the year to end-March (Martin Waller writes).

A final dividend of 7.25p makes a total increase from 11.3p to 12.5p.

Mr Christopher Haskins, the chairman, criticized the "hysterical response" to the scares as well as the role of the media, which he claimed "plays to society's neuroses"

over food safety. He said the risk from the range of foods now available was remote but conceded: "You can't have food that is risk-free." A food bill that will strengthen the relevant regulations is on its way through Parliament. "The food industry is going to have to pull its socks up a bit," Mr Haskins said.

He dismissed the latest food scare, concerning British beef, as a "political stunt" by French farmers. Pork prices had increased and beef fallen initially as a result, but they

had now adjusted to their previous levels. "On balance the last three weeks has helped us rather than hindered us," said Mr Haskins. Twenty-five per cent of Northern's prepared meat output is beef-related, against 50-60 per cent for pork.

Northern has virtually all gearing and is keen to invest further. Areas favoured include dairy products and meat pies in this country, and expanding into Europe in the longer run.

Tempos, page 27

Oxford advances 76% to £19.9m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in Oxford Instruments Group, the high-technology group, advanced by 34p to 233p after the company revealed a 76 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £19.9 million in the year to March 25.

However, this figure was boosted by an exceptional gain of £4.31 million, mainly from the gain on the disposal of Oxford Magnet Technology, the medical scanner magnet business, to Siemens in May 1989.

Earnings per share rose by 79 per cent to 26.8p, while earnings excluding exceptional items rose by 10 per cent to 21p. The final dividend is improved to 2.7p (2.2p), making 3.9p (3.2p) for the year, up 22 per cent.

Mr Martin Lemaison, the finance director, said: "We have improved the balance of the group and we are no longer a one-product company."

Mr Lemaison said that Link Scientific, the X-ray analytical machine company acquired last September for £57.5 million, had made "a good contribution to profits."

Group operating profits advanced by 8 per cent to £13.8 million. Group turnover was barely changed, down slightly from £101.1 million to £100.8 million. Associated companies contributed £523,000, after a loss of £65,000 last time.

Mr Lemaison said that the company's cash position was close to neutral. Margins were slightly better, thanks to improved volumes and the containment of overheads.

The company is still awaiting results of tests on its synchrotron project for IBM, intended to revolutionize production of silicon chips, although it says that good progress has continued. The machines, which are the company's key new product, could be sold for about £15 million each.

Mr Lemaison said: "We hope to have further development in the next few months. People are waiting to see if the prototype actually works."

Sir Austin Pearce, chairman, said: "It has been a year of change for the group. We remain an export-oriented UK manufacturer of advanced instruments, but now have a well balanced portfolio of businesses."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Etam warning adds to retailing gloom

ETAM, the fashion retailer, yesterday gave warning that profits this year will be substantially lower than last year's. Mr Alan Howard, chairman, said that consumer confidence is at about the same level as in the recession of 1981.

The market, already reeling from Goldring and Coloroll going into receivership, marked Etam shares down 29p to 124p, and analysts downgraded forecasts for the year. The group is expected to make only £5 million to £10 million this year, compared with £17.5 million last year. Etam may make a trading loss in the first half. Mr Howard told the annual meeting that conditions on the high street continued to deteriorate and that in the short term there was little prospect of any change. "A loss is probable at the interim stage," he said.

GM in \$1bn Russian deal

GENERAL Motors has agreed a \$1 billion deal to provide pollution control systems for Russian cars. The deal with Volga Automobiles is to provide engine management systems and could lead to a joint venture making catalytic converters. The five-year contract underlines the move by GM into the Eastern bloc. It recently announced a joint venture in East Germany.

RCO up 33% at half-way

RCO Holdings, the cleaning and related services company, lifted pre-tax profits by 33 per cent to £17.3 million in the 26 weeks to end-March on turnover ahead by 27 per cent to £17.5 million. Earnings per share rose 31 per cent to 10.29p and the interim dividend is 3.5p (2.7p). The directors are confident the year-end figures will exceed last time by a satisfactory margin.

Illingworth lower

ILLINGWORTH, Morris, the textiles group, reports a fall in pre-tax profits from £9.4 million to £9 million for the year to end-March. Sales fell from £96.6 million to £88.4 million in what the company described as increasingly difficult markets.

Earnings per share rose from 15.3p to 15.7p because the tax charge dropped from £3.1 million to £2.6 million. Extraordinary charges, up from £1.6 million to £3.3 million, were not elaborated on. Net interest receivable jumped to £3.08 million (£188,000).

Waterman expects fall

WATERMAN Partnership Holdings, the engineering design consultant, has given warning that it expects lower profits for the year to end-June as a result of delayed starts to new projects and uncertainty in the construction industry. The group's share price tumbled 45p to 105p on Wednesday and was unchanged last night. The board expects annual profits lower than £5 million.

Marylebone in bid talks

SHARES in Marylebone Estates Company, the USM-listed property investor and dealer, rose 10p to 28p after the company announced it was in talks with a third party "which may lead to an offer for the whole of the issued share capital of the company." It is understood that talks, believed to be with a foreign company, are "fairly likely to lead to a full bid."

Sanders & Sidney dip

SANDERS & Sidney, the USM executive outplacement consultant, reports a dip in pre-tax profits from £852,000 to £738,000 for the year to end-March. Turnover advanced by 26 per cent to £3.77 million. Operating profits were ahead by 26 per cent to £1.08 million. However, there was an exceptional debit of £339,000, relating to board charges.

Operating profits in the second half were virtually double those of the first half and they have continued to advance in the new year. The final dividend is 5.2p (4.6p), making 7.5p (6.9p). Earnings per share slid from 11.7p to 9.5p.

PILKINGTON

ANNUAL RESULTS

The profit for 1989/90 represents a good performance, achieved in increasingly difficult trading conditions in many countries and markets served by the Group.

The balance sheet has been further strengthened and Group gearing has been reduced by 14 points through strong internal cash generation, selective divestment of non-core activities, and the monies received as a result of the investment by Nippon Sheet Glass in 20% of our United States subsidiary, Libbey-Owens-Ford.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

At the operating level sales are ahead by 13% and profits have increased by £11 million.

This is a very creditable achievement when set against a number of adverse economic events encountered around the world.

FLAT AND SAFETY GLASS

The European operations increased profits by £9 million this year. In Germany, Flachglas achieved record results and maintained its market position in buoyant conditions. In the United Kingdom, the flat and safety glass operations of Pilkington Glass Limited achieved a very satisfactory performance.

Libbey-Owens-Ford in the United States experienced a severe downturn in profit in the second half, due to sharply reduced new car production. However, the company performed well in the architectural and residential markets.

Results in Australia were well down on the previous year. South Africa and Brazil achieved record results.

INSULATION AND REINFORCEMENTS

Trading conditions were difficult with lower demand in the market due to the reduction in United Kingdom building activity and the third mild winter in succession.

VISIONCARE

Pilkington Visioncare enjoyed a good start to the year, but as predicted in the Interim Statement, the later months were severely affected by adverse market conditions in the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany. The second half downturn in profit was principally due to a decline in the United States contact lens market, which is now stabilising. There are signs of improvement in the United Kingdom and strong demand has returned in Germany.

OPTRONICS

In the United Kingdom the present uncertainty in the defence industry has provided a difficult trading background, necessitating a reduction of 400 jobs at a cost of £4 million. Despite this the order book at the year end is at a record level.

PROSPECTS

The economic climate in a number of the markets in which the Group operates is more uncertain today than has been the case for some time. However, Pilkington is better positioned than ever before to take advantage of growth opportunities as they arise.

EXTRACTS FROM THE STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN ANTHONY R. PILKINGTON

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS		
	1990 £m	1989 £m
Turnover	2,915.0	2,572.6
Profit before tax	314.3	325.2
Profit attributable to shareholders	178.7	176.5
Shareholders' funds	1,324.3	1,032.5
Earnings per ordinary share	25.0p	27.3p
Dividend per ordinary share	10.5p	9.5p

- Turnover up by 13% to £2,915 million.
- Operating profits up by £11 million to £360 million.
- Dividends increased by 10.5%.
- Dividend cover 2.4 times.
- Shareholders' funds increased by £292 m (28%).
- Gearing reduced by 14 points as forecast.
- Excellent flat and safety glass performance in Europe.
- Investment by Nippon Sheet Glass in Libbey-Owens-Ford successfully completed.
- Technological leadership extended with launch of new products, in particular:
 - Pilkington K Glass for energy conservation in buildings.
 - EZ-KOOL glass for solar control and energy conservation in the auto industry.



PILKINGTON KNOW HOW.

Labour would aid first-time buyers

By LINDSAY COOK, FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

FIRST-TIME homebuyers would receive extra tax relief under a Labour government, Mr Bryan Gould, Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, said at the Building Societies Association conference.

Mr Gould said the party had a very clear commitment in its policy review document to help first-time buyers. This would be in the form of extra tax relief on repayments and not cash help with building up deposits.

At the same time, higher rate taxpayers would be restricted to basic rate tax relief on their mortgages. The details of the removal of higher rate relief had not been worked out but it would be unlikely that homeowners would keep the extra relief until they moved house.

The party would also scrap tax relief on the assured tenancy Business Expansion Schemes. These give tax relief on investments up to £40,000 to provide rented accommodation and any profits are also free of capital gains tax.

The Nationwide Anglia Building Society is among the leading sponsors of these schemes, which attracted about £150 million last year.

Mr Gould criticized building societies for not always being careful in their lending policies. He said that while the

proportion of foreclosures and repossessions remained small it was increasing.

"But the fact remains that the number of those for whom home ownership has proved a painful trap is growing and that the trend is likely to worsen. Many of these people feel, with justification or otherwise, that they were lured into an unwise commitment by interest rates which have subsequently doubled, by the prospects of capital appreciation which have now been dashed, and by the illusion - fostered by both the Government and the building societies - that home ownership was always a one-way bet."

He hoped that building societies would look self-critically at their own record.

"I hope they will ask themselves whether, at the margin, they did not lend too easily and too optimistically, and in some few cases unwisely."

The society is making provisions for other developers it feels have an uncertain future. The FlexAccount, launched in May 1987, was the first interest-bearing current account offering full banking services. It has long been rumoured by rival banks to have had debt problems. The provisions follow an assessment of the society's credit scoring system.

Ravenscraig dispute clouds plans

British Steel eyes on Europe

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

AMID a growing row over the closure of the Ravenscraig strip mill, British Steel is exploring options to strengthen its presence in continental Europe.

Charges of "deplorable industrial relations" came from Mr Clive Lewis, chairman of the Scottish TUC, following a refusal by Sir Robert Scholey, the British Steel chairman, to meet the Ravenscraig workforce to discuss the reasons for the closure.

Sir Robert offered to answer any letters so Mr Lewis urged the workers to write asking why 700 jobs had to go.

The Scottish TUC is seeking a meeting with Sir Robert and plans to send a delegation to the European Commission as

well as raising the Ravenscraig issue with the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee.

British Steel's growing interest in expansion into continental Europe could well fuel the controversy precipitated by the Ravenscraig decision, which many in Scotland believe presages a complete shutdown there.

On the European acquisition front, British Steel has only a few details to settle on its prospective deal to acquire from West Germany's Klöckner steel, machinery and plastics group its steel works at Troisdorf. An announcement is expected within weeks, possibly this month.

At the same time British Steel is making little progress

in wooing Spain's Aristrain, a family-controlled steelmaker and big supplier of constructional steels. Ensidena, one of Spain's biggest steelmakers, had also put in a bid.

British Steel is also exploring the possibility of collaborative ventures in Eastern Europe. It has already had contacts at industry level with most of the East European nations including the Poles, Hungarians and Czechs. Russian steel interests have also been to London for talks with British Steel, exploring how the British might help in preparing the Soviet industry for freer market conditions.

Sir Robert is, however, known to be approaching prospects of collaboration with caution.

Boots bounce up to Blyth

INDUSTRIAL relations at the Blyth shipyard, Northumberland, have been described as "difficult" by a senior source. The source said that the yard's management and workforce were in a "state of tension" and that the yard was "not in a good position" to take on new work. The source also said that the yard's management was "not in a good position" to take on new work. The source also said that the yard's management was "not in a good position" to take on new work.

Ferranti all ready to fly again

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

On my 47th birthday, Eugene Anderson spent his first day as chairman of Ferranti International, stepping into the shoes of Sir Derek Alun-Jones. Before I am 48, he will have constructed a company that is profitable and soundly financed. By the time I am 50, Mr Anderson may be seeking a new challenge.

Ferranti looks as if it will be one of the lucky ones. Despite the crushing financial blow of the alleged fraud at its International Signal subsidiary, the company has gone beyond the stage where its survival is in doubt. This is partly because the banks were whipped into line early, but more because Ferranti had enough fat, enough hidden reserves, to cover the gaping holes left in the balance sheet by the International Signal affair.

Substantial book profits have been made on the asset sales, and new injections of equity are unnecessary.

Sometime soon, perhaps even today, Mr Anderson, the tall, affable American who moved into the mess that was Johnson Matthey and rebuilt it into a

going concern, will announce details of his reorganization plans.

The divisional structure will be simplified and streamlined; the old culture of divisions in similar technologies competing against each other will be swept away overnight. In its place will rise the rebuilt Ferranti, designed around the businesses left after the fire-sales of Ferranti Defence Systems Group and parts of the Italian operations. He can then tick off the first of the eight objectives he set himself on Day One. Others have already been ticked away.

One, however, remains unfulfilled. Number Five: "Renegotiate debt, reduce number of banks to a limited number of relationship banks, and reduce borrowing costs in line with improved financial status."

Ferranti has £192 million deposited in the bank, and only £70 million of net indebtedness. But the deposits are held under the banking standstill agreement

against contingent liabilities. As Ferranti raised money from asset sales, it went straight into the deposit account. Out of £400 million, Ferranti was allowed £25 million pocket money.

This week, the banks were given a detailed presentation of the company's position and potential. A report was put together by Coopers & Lybrand, Deloitte, backing the reorganization and the case for renegotiation of the banking facilities. Barings, lead banker, is also on-side, so the company looks to be on the home straight. Ferranti needs to get out from under the standstill agreement and into a more normal banking relationship so that it can spend money, not to buy itself another

International Signal, but to rationalize, make redundancies where necessary and close uneconomic facilities. The sooner this is done, the sooner a positive operating cash flow will be established, which should make the bankers feel more comfortable than a contrived stop-gap which has probably now outlived its purpose.

One of the problems may be that the banks are rather a shellshocked brigade at the moment. They let British & Commonwealth slip through their fingers, throwing the ball to the authorities which promptly dropped it. The unfortunate "Pots 'n' Pans Man" from Debenhams, Kenneth Marks, who moved in to replace John

Ashcroft at Coloroll, has found the "very strong vibes" he had from the banks were insufficient to keep the company afloat.

The banks, not for the first time, are torn between their image and their reserves. The right move at Ferranti should do both a power of good.

All square

Yesterday's tale of woe in the high street, with two former high fliers — Coloroll and Goldberg — falling heavily to earth and another — Etam — giving a low fuel warning, seems at first sight difficult to square with the "moderate rise" in sales reported by the latest distributive trades survey from the Confederation of British Industry.

But the overall picture conceals much variation in the detail. Sales of basic commodities like food appear to have

continued to grow quite strongly — so strongly in fact that imports of food have been remarkably buoyant as the trade figures have showed.

More peripheral items of spending, however, especially those more traditionally dependent on credit, like household goods, have been sharply cut back. Retail categories reporting lower sales than a year ago include specialist food, durable household goods, booksellers and stationers and household textiles, furniture and carpets. Against that background the problems of Coloroll, and to a lesser extent Goldberg, are less surprising.

From the macro-economic point of view the Government can perhaps take comfort from the evidence that retailers in general are beginning to feel the squeeze. Few jobs have been shed, which means that for most retailers margins have been cut. Prices at all stages of the distribution chain are rising more slowly.

For investors, however, the warning signs have not been switched off.

TEMPUS

Gloomy year for Pilkington

NOT much was expected of glassmaker Pilkington in a year when construction housing and cars were all depressed.

At £314.3 million, pre-tax profits were slightly below best hopes with the market looking for a figure closer to last year's £325 million. On closer scrutiny, the figures were boosted by the £27.8 million proceeds of a German waterworks disposal. Net of this, profits were £286.5 million, 12 per cent below the previous year.

But coupled with disappointing news from the group's newer diversifications, an important plank of the strategy which persuaded the City to reject BTR's takeover bid, the figures made drab reading.

In flat and safety glass, some 77 per cent of group sales trading profit struggled to a 2 per cent increase at £293 million. In the US a motor industry downturn hit Libby Owens Ford. Of the group's smaller businesses, insulation, where operating profit fell from £17 million to £9 million, was hit by lower housing sales. Visioncare was perhaps the most disappointing result with operating profit £10 million lower at £25 million.

Financially, Pilkington performed well, cutting gearing

14 points to 45 per cent. If the group can manage £300 million this year the shares are selling for around 8 times earnings. But given the gloom in most of Pilkington's trading areas, the shares are no more than a hold.

Norcros

THIS was the year Norcros was supposed to come good.

Profits growth was expected to have resumed by the beginning of the Nineties, with the new management team, introduced in the spring of 1988, having swept through the group. As it is, Mr Nigel Lawson's legacy of high interest rates has seen profits all but halved and, but for exceptional, would have forced the board to raid the reserves to hold the dividend. And there is little chance of early recovery.

The good news is quick in the telling. Building products' 29 per cent advance at the operating level in tough conditions owes much to the market positioning of Crittall windows. Triton showers and the like. Elsewhere the outlook is bleak. A slump in ceramics' profits, from £21.8 million to £7.7 million, means drastic surgery for the tile business, amid thoughts that it might have been tackled sooner.

Property fared still worse, with profits down from £13.9 million to £2.9 million, and has contributed heavily to the surge in gearing to 46.7 per cent. On paper, the £100 million portfolio more than covers the debts, but the group would not fancy having to justify that statistic in a hurry.

Group plans include winding down the property development, says the board. You bet they do. Without an early cut in base rates, Norcros will do well to beat £42 million pre-tax this year.

Meanwhile, income considerations are all that support the share price. The 10p rise to 208p left the yield above 10 per cent, without which Norcros looks an eventual break-up candidate.

Northern Foods

IT IS one of life's ironies that the state of food scares over the past year or so might turn out to be good news in the long run for the big producers like Northern Foods.

Chicken, cheese, eggs, beef — all have been swept from the dining tables of the "middle-class neurotics" derided by Mr Christopher Haskins, Northern's chairman. While this may be perceived as bad news in the City, it strengthens the

tie between quality producers like Northern who have been investing of late in the best equipment and the big food retailers, who are less and less inclined to take chances with their sources of supply.

After years of squeezing margins at their suppliers, the stores are being forced to realize that producing quality food safely is expensive.

This must be good for Northern, which last year completed a new chilled foods factory at Sheffield and will see 40 per cent of its output go to the big four retailers this year.

The group came in with a 6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £90.2 million in the year to end-March, flattered to some extent by lower pension fund contributions and capitalized interest on the new plant it has built. The shares, still some way from the 362p they reached in September, jumped 8p to 317p on the news.

The outlook is not entirely rosy — the biscuit market is flat with price-cutting threatening the bottom end — but as Northern further cements its relationship with the retailers it should make progress.

Assuming it makes £100 million pre-tax this year, the shares are changing hands on a reasonable 9.7 times future earnings. A solid hold at the least.

Serious money at stake in the Dunsdale liquidation



Harold Sorky: no gift certificates found

OFFICERS of the Metropolitan Police fraud squad have moved in on the plush Park Lane offices of Dunsdale Securities in an attempt to learn more about Mr Robert Miller, the company's only director, who has not been seen at the offices for a week.

They were joined by the provisional liquidators, Mr Raymond Hocking, of Stoy Hayward, and Mr Harold Sorky, of Sorky Defries, the accountants, who took the first steps towards piecing together the extent to which investors' money may be at risk. The final count will depend on amounts which may be awaiting settlement, but between £15 million and £20 million is now thought to be involved.

Speaking from the company's offices yesterday afternoon, Mr Sorky said he and his colleagues were trying to establish what had happened and why. "I have not found any gift certificates or substantial amounts of money, and we are continuing our inquiry. I believe a serious amount of money is at stake."

Mr Sorky, who was preparing a list of creditors, said he thought as many as 200 investors were involved. They are thought to have invested from £1,000 to £500,000 each with Dunsdale Securities.

Police officers removed books and files from the company's offices. A warrant has been issued for Mr Miller's arrest.

Bitter friends and customers were counting the cost of their dealings with Mr Miller, described as a well-dressed and polite businessman with a taste for high living. A party held for friends and investors at Apsley House less than 10 days ago, including an opera performance and dinner, was being described yesterday as a "swan-song" by close friends who said it may have been Mr Miller's way of saying goodbye.

One investor, who did not wish to be named, grew up with Mr Miller in a block of flats in Highgate, north London. He said his family went on to invest substantial sums with Mr Miller who was known to like dealing in blocks of £25,000 a time.

Mr Miller, who holds a degree from the London School of Economics, was a trainee blue-button on the Stock Exchange before joining Dunsdale Securities which was set up in 1974. He went on to become a director of several companies, including Dunsdale Guarantee and Dunsdale Properties, and others including

Noteline, Florcourt and Devabrook. He was appointed a director of Audley Fund Management in November 1983. He resigned as a director of City Trust, a London bank, in November 1985, and as a director of Crewehatch Travel in July 1987. He was also a director of several non-trading companies.

The Investors Compensation Scheme formed two years ago under the Financial Services Act is facing its biggest single test as a result of the Dunsdale affair. Under the scheme, investors may be paid up to £48,000 in compensation as a result of losses suffered by a fully authorized firm. Dunsdale was authorized to carry out investment business and handle client money, unlike many of the smaller Fimbra members.

Jon Ashworth

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Boots bounce up to Blyth

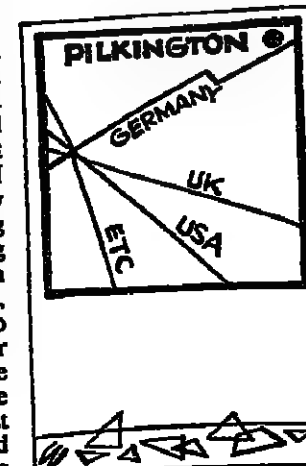
INSIDERS at Boots who grumble about the amount of time Sir James Blyth, their chairman, spends out of the office, have been put sharply in their places by the agreed merger of Boots' DIY division, Payless, with WH Smith's Do-It-All. For the idea that gave rise to the deal, which has created the largest DIY group in Britain, came to Blyth during one such absence from Boots head office. Previously managing director of Plessey, and before that head of defence sales at the Ministry of Defence, Blyth was playing tennis at Queen's Club about eight weeks ago when his tennis opponent, Alasdair Simpson, planted the relevant seed. The Boots boss, who has just celebrated his 50th birthday, was apparently complaining about the difficult times in the DIY market. Simpson, a solicitor with West End firm Manches & Co, thought that his grievances sounded strangely familiar. His firm, it so happened, acted for WH Smith, which naturally enough, was experiencing similar problems. Insisting that he acted more as a catalyst than Cupid, Simpson, whose firm is moving to offices in Aldwych to be closer to the Square Mile, said: "The need for consolidation in the market was obvious and I just suggested to James that he and Malcolm (Fields, managing

director of WH Smith) get together. I think a tennis court is as good a place as anywhere to bounce a few ideas around."

SO MUCH for the American work ethic. New statistics reveal that each week 25 Americans become millionaires — by winning a lottery. Statisticians have calculated that a further 120,000 individuals will be made millionaires by such means during the next 10 years.

Only kidding

PROVIDING a test of the senses of humour of those who work in the Square Mile, FRS, a head-hunting group specializing in asset finance, placed what was deemed to be a fairly obvious April Fool job advert in that month's edition of *Asset Finance & Leasing*.



gest. The application address was "Enver Hoxha Buildings" and the client, described as "Albania's largest goat-breeding organisation," was seeking a cross-border finance manager possessing "good goat farming skills (particularly black faced woolly shanks) and an ability to arrange barter transactions with Greek and Yugoslavian farmers." The advert added that a Communist Party background and working knowledge of British gold bullion reserves and warship design circa 1945 would be an advantage. To the astonishment of FRS, there were some serious replies. Chris Devonshire-Ellis, managing director of FRS, refused to identify one applicant, a senior leasing manager with an international datacom company, to spare him further embarrassment. But he said FRS has now found him a job with the National Bank of Greece. "We had been seeking to fill that post for four months," he added.

Poor painting

EMPLOYEES at Daishowa Paper, the company whose chairman, Ryoei Saito, recently started the world and thrilled art dealers by paying \$82.5 million for a Van Gogh, \$78.1 million for a Renoir and \$4 million for a Rodin sculpture with his loose change, are feeling more than a little miffed. Loyal Japanese workers though they are, they are nevertheless finding it difficult to accept the reason

repeatedly given by their boss when he turns down their annual requests for a wage rise. He has, it seems, been telling them that the company is too deeply in debt to permit such extravaganzas as a pay increase.

GRAFFITO on a builder's hoarding in Belsize Park, North London: "The most underdeveloped territory on Earth is situated between human ears."

Global war games

THE British Coal Pension Fund has dramatically switched tactics in its £1.03 billion bid for Globe Investment Trust. A handful of its fund managers were spotted stalking through woods near Hook in Hampshire, with pistols drawn the other day. But David Hardy, the Globe chairman, can rest easily in his bed. For, on this occasion at least, the foe being attacked by the fund managers was James Capel. Capel's team was led by Chris Morris, a food and stores analyst, who had invited the Coal fund to a day of war games in the countryside. But although Capel won the day, albeit by a narrow margin, another of its analysts, Andrew Falschaw, had a narrow escape when one of the exploding yellow pellets fired from the pistols narrowly missed one of his eyes. "He is looking a bit jaundiced," Morris admitted.

Carol Leonard

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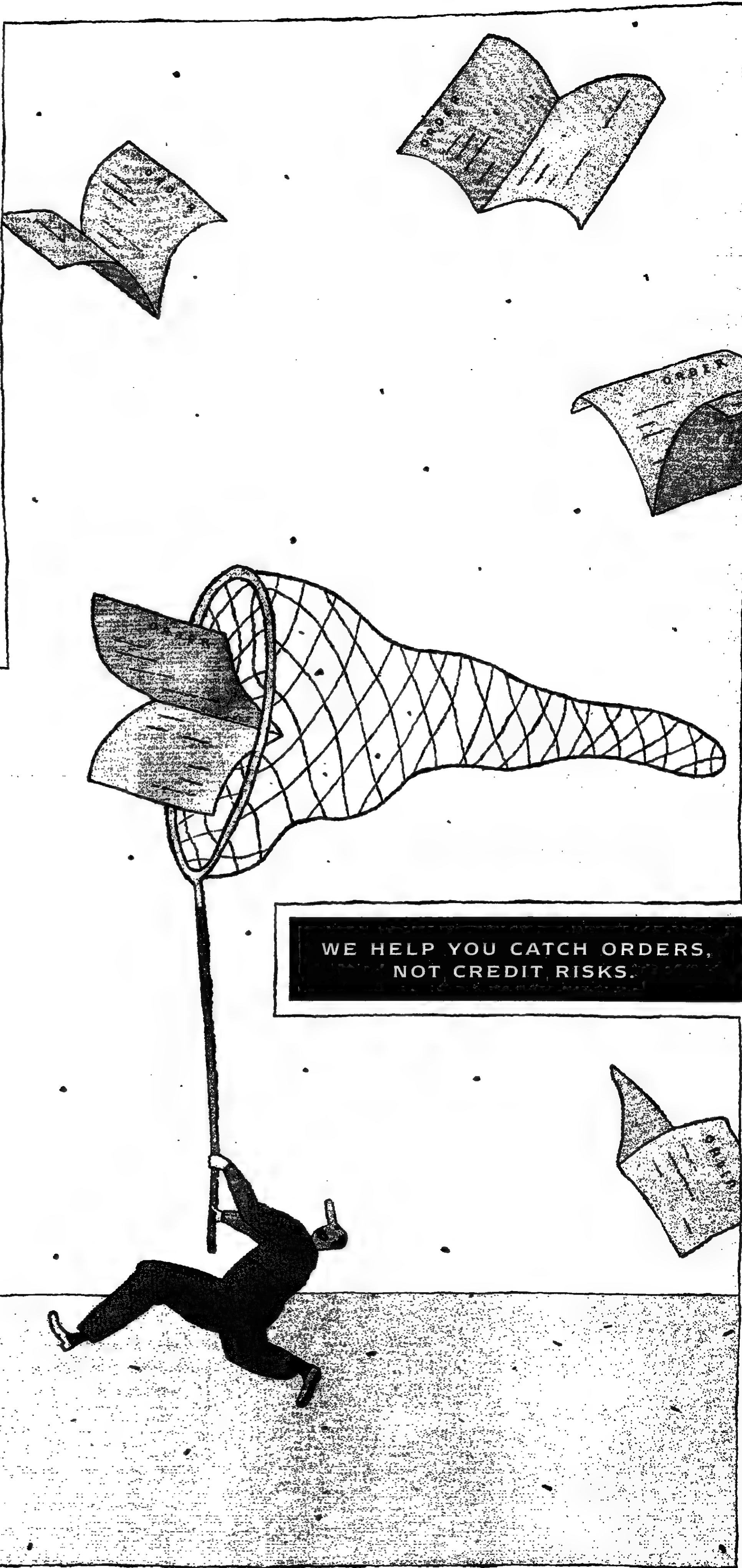
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Revaluation by Globe hampers Coal's bid

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GLOBE Investment Trust has taken advantage of the rising stock market to increase its asset valuation and put itself further out of reach from the hostile £1.03 billion bid by British Coal Pension Funds.

In its latest defence document, Globe states its total value is 233p a share, up from the 225p that it announced last month. The new figure is 25p higher than the trust's asset value when the bid was launched.

Most of the uplift comes from Globe's portfolio of quoted shares. The FT-SE 100 index has risen 9 per cent since Globe last updated its assets on May 11.

But assets have also been helped by Globe's acquisition of a 57-year lease on Globe House, its headquarters, from Mountleigh, for £24.5 million.

In all, Globe's underlying assets are valued at 218.1p, compared with 210p last month. The valuation of 233p is made up by including the trust's final 4p dividend, a valuation of its fund management operations, and 3.4p for the discount on the group debenture stock.

The market received Globe's new figures well, and its share rose 3p to 201p, well beyond the reach of British Coal's 191p a share bid.

American progress makes up for slack market in Britain

US growth is the key to Yale advance

By MICHAEL TATE

YALE and Valor, the locks to household appliance group, has overcome disappointing results in the UK to turn in a pre-tax profit increase from £49.3 million to £56.6 million in the year to end-March.

Mr Michael Montague, the chairman, whose vision catapulted the former Valor gas heater business into the big league with its acquisition of the Yale locks and NuTone electric appliance activities in 1987, says the home market remains slack with the exception of the industrial products side.

In the United States, however, the commercial and industrial side of the company is strong. Home products results were good despite less than favourable market conditions.

Operating profits from the security division climbed from £17.7 million to £21.7 million on sales of £141.9 million against £118.6 million, and continued growth is seen worldwide.

Mr Montague points to big rises in sales in the Middle

East, Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore.

Home product profits improved by a similar amount but on a bigger base, from £31.1 million to £35.4 million.

Turnover was £236.7 million against £197 million for last year.

Total sales for the group advanced by almost 19 per cent to £414.7 million, of which the US businesses accounted for £252.4 million.

Mr Montague is looking for further growth this year, with added impetus if Britain is "through the worst" and interest rates begin to fall.

Mr Montague also expects to see some contribution from new products, including the first British Standard Yale door lock, with 1 million combinations of keys, which he introduced yesterday at the Howard Hotel, London.

The final dividend is 6.15p a share, making 10.05p for the year, against 8.75p. Earnings per share are up from 28.1p to 32.3p. Yale and Valor shares responded with a 3p rise to 321p.



In the big league: Michael Montague yesterday

Restructure causes slide in results at 600 Group

By PHILIP PANGALOS

THE 600 Group, the machine tool, laser and optical equipment company, reports a slide in pre-tax profits from £10.1 million to £8.59 million in the year to end-March.

The results reflect the costs of restructuring and reorganisation. The largest single factor was the restructuring of Colchester Lathe, the group's largest machine tool manufacturer, which has been completed - but profits were reduced by about £1.7 million.

Earnings per share slipped from 14.8p to 11.4p. The final dividend is maintained at 3.74p, making an unchanged total of 6.2p for the year. The figures included an exceptional profit of £896,000 from the surplus on property sales.

Group turnover was marginally reduced to £155.8 million, against £156.5 million previously, affected by the company's decision to withdraw from turnkey contracting in the Middle East and focus on its core activities. Further costs are being incurred in this strategic withdrawal and full provision has been made, resulting in an extraordinary charge of £4.51 million. However, sales at continuing businesses were ahead by about 9 per cent.

The shares firmed by 2p to 108p.

South West Water narrowly beats predicted profits

By MARTIN WALLER

SHARES in South West Water ebbed 2p to 160p as the company reported that it had only narrowly beaten its own forecast for the year to end-March, made at the time of last year's flotation, and was paying only the indicated dividend.

South West made £45.3 million pre-tax, against a forecast of £44.5 million. The dividend is to be 11.62p, as indicated in the prospectus.

Earlier this week, Thames Water surprised the stock market by paying a higher dividend than had been suggested and North West Water beat its own profits forecast by more than £5 million.

Pro forma pre-tax profits, which assume the new capital structure imposed by the stock market float had been in place throughout the year, were £82.8 million pre-tax, just £800,000 ahead of the forecast with the prospectus, South West said. The figure achieved was two or three million pounds below some City forecasts.

Pro forma earnings per share were 61.9p, against a prospectus forecast of 61.3p.

South West had been seen at the float as one of the hardest water companies to sell because of publicity over pollution and contaminated water supplies. But the shares had doubled at one stage from their 100p partly-paid price before easing back to their present level.

Mr Keith Court, the chairman, said the management had accelerated the company's capital investment plan and spent almost £78 million during the year, a 50 per cent increase on last time. A similar rise was planned for the current year, and over the next 10 years it would be spending £1.4 billion. The board would be pursuing a progressive dividend policy as set out in the prospectus.

The group had the benefit of operating in a region of growth, and turnover grew by 13 per cent to £121 million. Further growth of the core business would be supported by development of non-core enterprises.

The flotation had provided South West with a strong balance sheet giving a sound financial basis for the future.

Mr Court confirmed that the company was going ahead with its legal action against British Alcan over pollution at Camelford, Cornwall, in 1988 that threatened to affect the shares' stock market debut. Drinking supplies had become accidentally contaminated with aluminium sulphate at South West's Lowermoor treatment plant.

Interim £21.8m at Daily Mail group

By MARTIN WALLER

DAILY Mail and General Trust, owner of the Daily Mail and the Evening Standard, produced pre-tax profits of £21.8 million in the six months to end-March. The previous figure, of £19 million, is not directly comparable because of the acquisition during the previous first half of 49.95 per cent of Associated Newspapers Holdings.

The interim dividend on the A non-voting shares is raised by 2p to 27p. Trading profit was ahead from £23.4 million to £32.7 million, but income from investments dropped from £4.2 million to

£100,000 after the sale of the group's holding in Consolidated-Bathurst, and interest charges were up from £11.2 million to £16.1 million.

The group said that a reduction in overall revenue in a difficult trading environment for newspapers had largely offset the benefits of cost reductions and operating efficiencies. The economic conditions under which the group was operating were unlikely to improve significantly during the current financial year, it said.

The A shares fell by £1 to £49.

Hunter Saphir profit falls 8% to £5.6m

By OUR CITY STAFF

HUNTER Saphir, the USM-quoted food group 20 per cent owned by the beleaguered Berisford International, yesterday reported an 8 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £5.6 million for the year to end-February.

The group gave warning about profits in March and the shares reacted with a 1p fall to 93p. The total dividend for the year remains unchanged at 5.05p, with earnings up 8 per cent to 15.32p.

Sales fell from £167 million to £137 million, reflecting the

disposal of the canned food operations. Sales of the remaining businesses rose 14 per cent.

Since the year-end a depot has been sold for £4.5 million and another depot sale is planned.

On trading prospects, the group said the first quarter was "in line with plans," but would continue to be affected by the "high financing cost of bridging the acquisition and disposal programme."

This will affect half-year results.

The Boots Company PLC

Boots announces biggest-ever profit £358.0 million.

Profit up 16.7%

- Boots The Chemists achieved another record year with sales up 8.9% and profit up 25.8%.
- Successful integration of Halfords and AG Stanley. (Payless DIY to combine with WH Smith's Do It All, announced 5th June 1990.)
- Boots Opticians acquired Miller and Santhouse and integrated the business into the chain.
- Pharmaceuticals increased profit by 16.6%, with outstanding success in the USA.

Commenting on the results, the Chairman, Robert Gunn, said:

"This is an outstanding result, particularly the profit increase of 25.8% from Boots The Chemists - a profit which has increased on a comparative basis by over 70% in the past two years.

The group result is against a background of a tough economic environment most significantly in the UK, and reflects successful management of the business in terms of product development, successful marketing and careful cost control."

PRELIMINARY RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

To 31st March 1990

	1990	1989	INCREASE
Pre-tax profit	£358.0m	£306.7m	+16.7%
Pre-tax profit (excluding profit from property sales)	£342.8m	£295.0m	+16.2%
Earnings per share	25.5p	22.6p	+12.8%
Final dividend	7.15p	6.5p	+10.0%

THE TIMES

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The Boots Company PLC

The full Report and Accounts, on which the auditors have issued an unqualified report, will be posted to shareholders on 26th June. Copies will be available from the Secretary, The Boots Company PLC, Nottingham NG2 3AA.



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The graph shows a linear relationship between the number of days of rain and the number of days of sunshine. The x-axis represents the number of days of rain, ranging from 0 to 10. The y-axis represents the number of days of sunshine, ranging from 0 to 10. A straight line with a negative slope starts at (0, 10) and ends at (10, 0).

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Japan's 'necessary' trade surplus annoys the US

From JOE JOSEPH
IN TOKYO

JAPAN appears to be heading for another row with the United States over trade.

The latest dispute centres on Tokyo's new and controversial theory that its large trade surpluses are not the demons of American myth, but a virtuous and vital source of cash needed to rebuild Eastern Europe.

The US, and many economists, are finding it hard to swallow Japan's logic. Even Japanese trade officials are worried that the new sales pitch could sour relations between the two nations at next month's world summit in Houston.

But Tokyo's finance ministry said that, far from threatening the world trading system or its economic health, Japan's surpluses are helping to keep the system afloat by funding American budget deficits and tempering the rise in interest rates all over the world.

Tokyo's external surpluses are seen by many of its trading partners as evidence of Japan's import barriers. To call them beneficial, even necessary, has been taboo in Tokyo until now.

Washington is particularly irritated by the timing of the Japanese ministry's novel argument. It comes just weeks after the Americans thought they had won trade concessions from Tokyo that might help to shrink the stubborn American trade deficit with Japan.

Economists regard the rationale behind Japan's thinking as questionable at best. At worst, they say, the theory is little more than an attempt to use voodoo economics to justify Japan's continued current account surpluses.

They say it is impossible to pick an optimal level for a current account balance. It is also ironic that Japan should be suggesting that Eastern Europe cannot survive with recycled funds from abroad when Japan's postwar economic miracle was financed by savings generated at home.

What annoys the US is that



Brady: well-off nations should try to cut surpluses

if there is a sound justification for Japan's surpluses, there must, by implication, also be an economically honourable reason for Washington's current account to remain deeply in the red.

Mr Nicholas Brady, the US Treasury Secretary, has dismissed the argument, saying a few days ago that countries with current account surpluses should keep trying to reduce

them by boosting domestic investment. He stressed that the need for capital in Eastern Europe "should not be confused with the need for surplus countries to continue to bring down their external surpluses by increasing investment relative to savings."

Many economists are also puzzled by Japan's new thinking on trade. Mr Peter Tasker, an analyst at Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, in Tokyo, said: "It's not a very credible argument. Eastern Europe is just a sideshow. It's just an excuse. In the decades after the war, Japan did not rely on foreign borrowing."

"What is worrying Japan's finance ministry is that if the current account surplus continues to fall, then the yen will continue to weaken, which could fuel inflation and accelerate Japan's land-price spiral. This is what lies behind the sudden surge in interest in the theory of the 'necessary' current account surplus."

Japan's current account surplus has been falling from its 1986 peak of \$94 billion. It stood at \$53.5 billion in the year to end-March.

But some economists predict that the yen's recent decline will swell Japan's trade surplus by making Japanese exports cheaper and its imports dearer. This would almost certainly rekindle American hostility.

Mr Kim Schoenholtz, an economist at the Tokyo office of Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, said: "We forecast that Japan's current account will start rising in the second half of this year and into next year, so the problem is likely to worsen."

"This is going to be a hot issue."

Second member of Fed resigns

From JOHN DURIE
IN NEW YORK

THE US Federal Reserve Board lost its second member this year with the surprise resignation of Mr Manuel Johnson, the vice-chairman.

Mr Johnson, who joined the Fed in 1986, will head a private economic research group and will also return to teaching at George Mason University.

Earlier this year Mr David Mullins, a former Treasury official, replaced Mr Robert Heller, who had resigned to take up a private enterprise position.

The news came as the Commerce Department revised downwards its estimate of American business spending to an annual increase of 5.5 per cent.

The new estimate compares with the department's original 7.9 per cent predicted growth in capital expenditure, which, in turn, compares with the 8.9 per cent growth last year. The figures underline the slowing growth in the American economy as shown by the 1.3 per cent GNP growth in the first quarter this year.

Well Street economists have also downgraded estimates of second-quarter growth to around 2 per cent from original estimates above a 2.5 per cent growth level.

The department said manufacturing capital spending would increase by only 3.4 per cent this year, compared with 4.9 per cent estimated two months ago.

Mr Johnson's departure from the Fed comes after a term in which he won respect for his fight-inflation-first policy, which is supported by his chairman, Mr Alan Greenspan. Mr Johnson said yesterday: "The outlook for a soft landing, for the continuation of it, is very good. I'm very pleased with what the Fed is doing."

The present make-up of the seven-member board of governors for the Fed is almost united in support of a policy of slow economic growth to cut inflation. The only exception is Ms Martha Seger, who has consistently voted in favour of interest-rate cuts at times when the economy shows signs of pressure.

Recent indications from Mr Greenspan suggest there will be little change in Fed policy over the next few months. It seems likely the federal funds rate, the interbank overnight lending rate, will remain at about 8.25 per cent.

Many commentators have predicted that economic and monetary union between the two Germanies, scheduled to begin on July 1, will cause economic turbulence, generating inflation and forcing Bonn to raise taxes.

Although some slowdown is expected in the current quarter, forecasters are now looking for an annual West German growth rate for the whole of this year close to last year's 4 per cent.

Bula ahead
Bula Resources, the oil company, raised pre-tax profits from £211,000 to £501,000 for the year. Again there is no dividend.

SA group to take control of Bennett & Fountain

By PHILIP PANGALOS

THE Bennett & Fountain Group, the USM electrical retailer and wholesaler which has been holding talks with "a third party" interested in subscribing for new shares, has entered into a subscription agreement with Voltex Holdings of South Africa.

Voltex, which is listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, is a wholesale distributor of cable, electrical and ancillary products as well as manufacturing low-voltage PVC cable.

It has conditionally agreed to subscribe £20 million for 46.5 million new ordinary shares at 43p, representing about 52.5 per cent of Bennett's enlarged ordinary capital.

In addition, Voltex will be entitled to further ordinary shares, up to a maximum of 17.1 million, which would increase its holding to 60 per cent of the enlarged capital, depending on the extent to which Bennett's net assets are less than £20 million at the end of this month.

Bennett made a pre-tax loss of £7.9 million in the year to July 1, 1989, affected by the slowdown in consumer spending, although it reported a profit of £571,000 for the six months to end-December.

Bennett's retail division has seen significant restructuring in the last nine months. The company has disposed of its retail arm to Thorn EMI and has seen the closure of about 100 retail outlets, with about 56 remaining open.

It is understood that some further restructuring of the retail division is still outstanding.

Mr Stephen Coleman, the finance director, said: "We have taken down the debt and stock levels enormously and we have reduced overheads significantly."

He added that resources had been concentrated on the wholesale division, "which is successful".

The company said that conditions remain difficult but the injection of funds by Voltex, which will be applied mainly in reducing borrowings, should "considerably enhance the group's prospects".

Voltex's subscription will strengthen Bennett's balance sheet and will also provide advantageous purchasing terms as well as access to personnel, resources and products.

Bennett's shares, which stood at the 30p level at the beginning of last month, eased by 2p to 43p yesterday on the news of the deal.

Thomas French profits dive
from £1.06 million to £507,000 in the six months to March, on sales down from £11.2 million to £9.32 million. Earnings per share fell from 5.72p to 2.77p, but the interim dividend stays at 1.45p.

Mr Jeremy French, chairman, said that sales of consumer products in Britain fell by 16 per cent, due to lower demand and trade de-stock-

ing, although overseas businesses did well and exports were at a record level. "As there is little sign of any improvement in demand or reduction in interest rates, we do not expect an improvement in the second half," he said.

Interest payments stood at £172,000, against receipts of £22,000 last time.

The shares fell 6p to 60p.

Pre-tax profits were halved

ELECTRICITY NOTICE

SEEBOARD plc

Take notice that SEEBOARD plc has applied for an extension to a Private Electricity Supply Licence granted on 26th March 1990 in the following terms:

- Full name of the applicant: SEEBOARD plc
- Address of the applicant, or in the case of a body corporate the registered or principal office:
Grand Avenue,
Hove,
East Sussex
BN3 2LS
- Where the applicant is a Company, the full names of the current Directors and the Company's registered number:
George Alexander Squair
David Alexander Lowrey
Ralph Harry Charles Aldred
Terence Alan Boley
Roy Arthur Cox
Thomas James Ellis
Leonard Jones
Ian George McLeod
John Cunningham Quinn
James Keith Sumner
John Arthur Walsley
Stanley Maundrie Wade
Registered No. 2866867
- Where a holding of 20 per cent or more of the shares of an applicant is held by a body corporate or partnership of an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit, the name(s) and address(es) of the holder(s) of such shares shall be provided:
Not applicable
- Desired date from which the licence is to take effect:
30th June 1990
- A sufficient description adequately specifying the nature and situation of the premises intended to be supplied, separately identifying premises within the power bands specified in and to the extent provided by paragraph 7 below:
All non-domestic premises with a demand of 1MW or more in the following FES areas:
Eastern Electricity plc
East Midlands Electricity plc
London Electricity plc
Manweb plc
Midlands Electricity plc
Northern Electric plc
NORWEB plc
Southern Electric plc
South Wales Electricity plc
South Western Electricity plc
Yorkshire Electricity Group plc
Scottish Hydro-Electric plc
Scottish Power plc

7. (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b) indicate the total number of premises intended to be supplied in each power band as shown in the table below, together with the aggregate energy forecast to be supplied and the aggregate estimated maximum demand for each power band.
None.

(b) If the date in paragraph 5 above is on or after 1st April 1994 then only Power Band A shall be completed and if the said date is on or after 1st April 1998 then this paragraph shall cease to have effect.

Power Band	Number of Premises	Aggregate Maximum Demand	Energy (GWh) to be Supplied
(A) not exceeding 0.1MW	NONE		
(B) exceeding 0.1MW but not exceeding 1.0MW	NONE		

8. A description of the system of electric lines and electrical plant by means of which the applicant intends to supply electricity, indicating which plant and lines are to be constructed and which are existing plant and lines, and further identifying any parts of that system which will not be owned by or otherwise in the possession or control of the applicant.

Lines owned by:
The National Grid Company plc
Eastern Electricity plc
East Midlands Electricity plc
London Electricity plc
Manweb plc
Midlands Electricity plc
Northern Electric plc
NORWEB plc
SEEBOARD plc
Southern Electric plc
South Wales Electricity plc
South Western Electricity plc
Yorkshire Electricity Group plc
Scottish Hydro-Electric plc
Scottish Power plc

9. A statement of extent (if any) to which the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land etc.) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) to the Act to be given through the licence for which he is applying:
As laid down in the Public Electricity Supply Licence granted to SEEBOARD plc by the Secretary of State on 26th March 1990.

10. Details of any licences held, applied for or being applied for by the applicant in respect of the generation, transmission or supply of electricity:
Public Electricity Supply Licence,
Private Electricity Supply Licence

Copies of maps relevant to this application have been lodged in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Electricity (Applications for Licences and Extensions of Licences) Regulations 1990 at Regional Offices of the Office of Electricity Regulation. Copies are available for inspection by the public between 10a.m. and 4p.m. on any working day.

SM Wide, Administration Director and Company Secretary of SEEBOARD plc, Grand Avenue, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 2LS.

South China Post sells share stake

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

SOUTH China Morning Post (Holdings), a subsidiary of The News Corporation, has applied for a listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through the sale of 35 per cent of its shares to public and institutional investors.

The News Corporation, which owns The Times, is to sell a further 14 per cent of SCMPH to the United Overseas Bank, which is to buy 9 per cent, and Singapore Press Holdings, to buy 5 per cent. The News Corporation will stay the controlling shareholder, with 51 per cent.

The price of the shares offered will be the same in each case, said a statement by The News Corporation and SCMPH.

The South China Morning

Post and its sister, the South China Sunday Morning Post, are two of the most profitable publications in The News Corporation portfolio. SCMPH also publishes magazines and sells books.

"The basis of the application is a proposal to offer for sale 17.5 per cent of the issued share capital in conjunction with a placement of a further 17.5 per cent with institutional and professional investors," the statement said.

Analysts value SCMPH at between HK\$4 billion and HK\$5 billion (£300 million to £380 million). This represents almost a doubling of the SCMPH market value when News took control in December 1986, after which the firm was delisted.

Despite the influx of close to

West Germany growing at 4.4%

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE West German economy, defying predictions of a slowdown, boomed at an annual growth rate of 4.4 per cent during the first quarter of this year.

Official figures showed that the gross national product had expanded 2.5 per cent in real terms compared with the final quarter of 1989, putting Europe's economic powerhouse in a good position to undertake its planned economic and monetary union with East Germany.

West Germany's performance, after eight years of impressive growth, contrasts sharply with Britain, where the Government's counter-inflationary policy is slowing down the economy.

Although some slowdown is expected in the current quarter, forecasters are now looking for an annual West German growth rate for the whole of this year close to last year's 4 per cent.

three quarters of a million ethnic Germans in the past year, the West German unemployment rate last month fell from 7.3 per cent to 7 per cent - the lowest for eight years - thanks to the jobs boom affecting the whole economy.

Many commentators have predicted that economic and monetary union between the two Germanies, scheduled to begin on July 1, will cause economic turbulence, generating inflation and forcing Bonn to raise taxes.

Although some slowdown is expected in the current quarter, forecasters are now looking for an annual West German growth rate for the whole of this year close to last year's 4 per cent.

Despite the influx of close to

Elders IXL programme deferred

Melbourne

ELDERS IXL's capital return programme has been deferred until it establishes terms and conditions for new financing.

Mr Charles Faggetter, the company secretary, said in a statement, in response to a letter from the Australian Stock Exchange (ASE), that Elders' asset sales were progressing "broadly in line with expectations" in its strategy of becoming a single-purpose brewing company.

Negotiations on new financing facilities were also progressing satisfactorily and a reassessment of the capital return programme would be made when they were set. The ASE's letter was not released.

Elders said on May 11 it had begun talks with the big banks to establish a global facility to refinance debt and a revised capital return programme would be announced when it was completed.

When it announced its plans to restructure into a single-purpose brewer in March, the company said that asset sales would bring a capital return to shareholders of 50 cents (23p) a share about now and another 50 cents in the next financial year, which starts next month. (Reuters)

Growing inflation and wage demands add to threat of closures

Fall in gold price hits SA mines

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

A NUMBER of South African gold mines are under threat of closure with the potential loss of thousands of jobs because of the falling world price of gold.

Gold was fixed at \$353.80-\$354.40 in London yesterday afternoon, down from \$356.80-\$357.30 on Wednesday.

Concern over increased Soviet activity in the gold market because of that country's debt problems, and recent waves of bullion selling from the Middle East, have undermined sentiment in the market.

The fall in price has cut the profitability of gold mining operations worldwide. The problem has been compounded in South Africa by intense cost pressures because of domestic inflation and mounting wage demands by black workers.

The average gold price received in rand terms last year increased by less than 1 per cent, at a time when average unit working costs for the South African industry rose by nearly 10 per cent.

Analysts estimate that at current gold prices almost 224

tonnes of the country's total annual output of 608 tonnes are uneconomic, and that between 50 and 100 tonnes of production may have to be abandoned unless the gold price rises.

South African gold mines rarely die, because of the socio-political implications within an industry that employs thousands of workers of all races, and on which towns and cities which surround their operations depend. However, the South African Government may take a tougher line.

On Wednesday, it announced a commission of inquiry into the continued viability of East Rand Proprietary Mines, of the Rand Mines group, which is again asking for government help to save its mine and the surrounding Boksburg town.

Other mines and mining houses will be watching the outcome of the inquiry with more than a passing interest. If ERP is allowed to die, the funeral bells will start to toll for others with equally pressing cases to plead.

Because of the sensitive nature of gold to South Africa

and the industry's labour opportunities, mines under cost pressures have previously been able to rely on government assistance to bail them out.

If the authorities were to allow the rand to fall and therefore allow the gold mines to reap a higher income for their product, the counter effect would be a rise in the domestic rate of inflation. But that is an economic corner into which they do not wish to be forced.

Durban Deep, another Rand Mines operation, is also facing a cost squeeze. ERP's costs at the top end of the scale

are estimated at \$515 per ounce of gold after taking capital expenditure into account. Venterspost, another marginal mine, has a cost profile of \$445 an ounce.

Three gold mines, Randfontein, Western Areas and Harmony, also face high costs, but collectively account for 72 tonnes of annual production and are probably viewed as worth carrying for the time being, even though their costs, before capital expenditure, range between \$340 and \$389 an ounce.

A survey by Gold Fields Mineral Services, the London gold bullion research group, put average Western world mining costs at \$250 an ounce, and South African working costs at \$275 an ounce. This compares with \$206 an ounce for American mines and \$236 an ounce in Australia.

One of the lowest gold mining operations in South Africa is Gold Fields of South Africa's Driefontein mine, with average costs of about \$171 an ounce.

London analysts add that South African gold mines share per se generally remain out of international flavour while the political situation remains in flux.

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Mr Philip Healy, AM's editor, said that although Britain might be much more open for bids, the more robust economies of France and Spain now drew many buyers. Large and medium-sized companies, usually privately-owned, were coming on to the market in

Rise in cross-border EC deals

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE number of cross-border acquisitions of EC companies jumped 39 per cent in the first quarter of this year from the first quarter of 1989, according to Acquisitions Monthly.

There were 517, up from 373, but a dearth of big bids in Britain cut the total value from £10.2 billion to just under £8 billion.

Britain continued to be the prime target for takeovers, with 84 acquisitions worth £3.3 billion, down from £5.8 billion. This narrowed Britain's lead over the 11 other EC

countries. France, the second favourite hunting ground, saw 88 takeovers worth £1.87 billion, up from £1.57 billion in the previous quarter. Spain, in third place, recorded 59 takeovers, worth £1.13 billion, slightly down.

Mr Philip Healy, AM's editor, said that although Britain might be much more open for bids, the more robust economies of France and Spain now drew many buyers. Large and medium-sized companies, usually privately-owned, were coming on to the market in

considerable numbers in most continental countries. The Swedes were the biggest spenders on EC companies in the first quarter, acquiring 53 for a total of £2.18 billion, after spending only £151 million in the previous quarter. France was the second largest acquirer, buying 88 firms for £1.17 billion, slightly up on final-quarter 1989.

Despite the difficulties facing some of its leading entrepreneurs, Australia was third, spending £1.06 billion on just 11 companies.

Western fund seeks East breakthrough

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

THE Austro-Hungary Fund, launched by Merrill Lynch, has become the first Western company to seek a listing on an Eastern European exchange. The fund, a \$50 million investment company, will seek a quote on the Budapest market.

The news comes in the same week as Ibusz, the Hungary travel company, became the first Eastern bloc firm to declare its intention to list in the West.

Officially the Merrill Lynch fund is designed to split its investments equally between Austria and Hungary, although in practice it will be increasingly difficult to differentiate between the two markets since Austria accounts for about a third of foreign investment in Hungary.

Budapest already operates an embryonic stock exchange, which will receive a boost later this month after its official launch. Ibusz will be the first new entrant, but the Hungarian State Property Agency (SPA) has promised a massive programme of privatizations. This year the SPA plans to privatize 60 companies, yielding \$600 million. Next year there will be an additional 100, worth between \$1.3 bil-



Antall: promises

lion and \$1.9 billion. Eventually about 85 per cent of state-owned assets should go into private hands. It is principally these privatization stocks that the Austro-Hungary Fund intends to invest in.

The new fund is further evidence that Hungary is turning into the West's favourite Eastern European country. The pro-Hungarian sentiment has been echoed by M. Michel Camdessus, chairman of the International Monetary Fund, who has consistently applauded the bold privatization measures promised by the new government of Mr Jozsef Antall, Hungary's prime minister.

Mr Peter Kysel, managing director of Lloyds Investment Management International, who will be managing the fund, and himself a Czech, also prefers Hungary from an

investment point of view. Mr Kysel regards privatizations as the single most effective means of restoring the Eastern European economies as they provide a fast route to a free market as well as generating the necessary funds over a sufficient period of time to help Eastern European governments repay their debts.

In the short run, Hungary's industry is expected to benefit from a comparative wage cost advantage as average wages amount to only 10 per cent of those of Austria or West Germany and only 30 per cent of East Germany. Over time - Lloyds Investment thinks five years - these differentials will narrow substantially. Until then, however, the rates of return should be much above the EC average.

The fund is geared towards European institutional investors and so-called high net worth individuals. Merrill Lynch admitted that high rates of return go with a higher degree of risk. In Hungary's case, the risk is perhaps smaller than elsewhere in Eastern Europe as the new government has a five-year mandate, longer than other Eastern European governments. Such time will be necessary to embark on the boldest reforms, even though they may turn out to be unpopular at times.

Revenue fall at LBC blamed for downturn

Crown slips below £3m

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

A SLUMP in advertising revenue at LBC, the London radio station, has been blamed for a fall in interim profits at Crown Communications, its owner.

LBC, which has lost advertising revenue to its rival Capital Radio since 1987, when it was boasting 20 per cent sales growth, has reported a 1 per cent fall in revenue for the six months to end-March.

Mr Christopher Chataway, Crown's chairman, said: "The slowdown in advertising revenue came at a difficult time for LBC - before its two new split-frequency services were established and while it was still operating in inefficient premises with a high-cost structure."

Crown's interim pre-tax profits are down from £3.79 million to £2.95 million, while earnings per share slipped from 10.2p to 7.1p. The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.5p.

The figures were also hit by a £4 million exceptional charge relating to the cost of launching LBC's split frequency. This was softened by a £5 million exceptional gain on acquisitions and disposals of stakes in other radio companies. Mr Chataway said Crown Television, a new division that has won a five-year contract to supply British Satellite Broadcasting with a 35-bulletin daily news service,



Chataway: benefits of cost-cutting moves not yet felt

made a strong profits contribution.

Crown said the interim results have not benefited from recent cost-cutting measures, which involved 70 redundancies. Mr Chataway said: "The benefit won't really

be felt until the next financial year, when we expect costs to be reduced by £2 million."

He added that it was too early to make any forecasts about the second half of the year given volatility in the advertising market.

HK Telecom rises 20% to £332m on higher turnover

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG Telecom Communications, Cable and Wireless's 59 per cent-owned offshoot in the colony, posted net profits up 20 per cent to HK\$4.36 billion (£332 million) for the year to end-March, in line with market expectations.

The group, which is Hong Kong's largest quoted firm, accounting for about 10 per cent of the stock market capitalization, saw turnover rise by 19 per cent to HK\$14.13 billion on strong growth in international phone and data services.

Overseas telephone services produced revenues of HK\$7.97 billion, 23 per cent higher than a year ago and made up 56 per cent of total turnover. Another area of rapid growth was in the provision of computer and engineering services, which saw revenues jump 40 per cent to HK\$611 million.

Operating profit rose 18 per cent to HK\$4.41 billion while earnings per share jumped 20 per cent to 39.1 cents. A final dividend of 15 cents a share makes the total for the year 24 per cent higher at 28 cents.

Mr Mike Gale, the chief executive, said the company was planning to invest some HK\$3 billion in the telephone system this year. "Capital

expenditure totalling some HK\$5.4 billion is planned over the next three years," he said. "These investments will ensure not only the continued profitable growth of the group, but also that Hong Kong will continue to have one of the best telecommunications systems in the world."

More than 154,000 new telephone lines were installed last year, making 2.3 million for the 5.6 million men, women and children in the colony. Half the lines have international direct dialling, and there are now 88,530 fax lines, 35 per cent more than a year ago.

He said he was confident about the long-term future of Hong Kong despite events which led to the suppression of the pro-democracy protests in China last year.

Cable and Wireless recently completed the sale of a 20 per cent stake to the Peking-controlled China International Trust and Investment Corporation, but is still the largest shareholder of Hong Kong Telecom.

Analysts at Baring Securities say profits for the year ending March 1991 should be 10 per cent higher, with growth running at between 15 per cent and 20 per cent until the end of the decade.

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LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Index	Value	Daily change	Yearly change	Daily change	Yearly change
The World	747.9	-0.1	-11.3	0.3	-5.8
(free)	142.8	-0.1	-11.5	0.2	-5.8
EAFE	1308.7	0.0	-18.0	0.1	-10.1
(free)	134.2	0.0	-18.3	0.0	-10.4
Europe	750.4	0.0	-1.4	0.3	0.5
(free)	161.2	0.0	-1.4	0.0	0.2
Nth America	527.8	-0.2	-1.9	0.0	2.8
(free)	158.7	-0.2	-1.9	0.0	2.8
Nordic	251.1	-0.5	8.7	-0.1	4.9
(free)	300.4	0.0	-24.2	-0.1	9.9
Pacific	4359.0	0.0	-24.7	0.1	-16.3
(free)	303.7	-0.7	-12.5	-1.0	-6.9
Australia	1804.9	-0.1	21.5	0.3	27.1
(free)	904.5	-0.4	-8.1	-0.1	-6.0
Canada	520.3	-0.6	-13.4	-0.6	-8.4
(free)	1335.4	-0.4	1.4	0.0	3.9
Finland	97.5	-1.0	-15.5	-0.7	-13.2
(free)	139.5	-0.8	-8.4	-0.9	-0.9
France	792.7	-0.2	-2.0	0.1	-3.9
(free)	906.8	-1.3	-2.0	-1.0	-3.4
Germany	2973.8	-0.7	7.0	-0.5	11.6
Hong Kong	354.8	0.2	2.4	0.5	5.3
(free)	4588.9	0.1	-7.7	0.3	-3.7
Italy	873.0	0.1	-15.7	0.3	-8.8
(free)	1543.8	-0.4	-15.0	-0.2	-8.6
Japan	267.6	-0.6	14.5	-0.3	-8.0
(free)	1992.4	0.2	-0.1	0.4	-0.4
Sing/Malay	217.1	-0.9	-8.3	-0.1	-7.7
(free)	284.9	-0.4	2.1	0.0	5.5
Spain	951.3	-0.5	9.4	-0.1	13.0
(free)	143.8	-0.8	4.0	-0.2	1.5
Sweden	708.8	1.1	-1.7	1.1	-1.2
(free)	478.8	-0.2	-0.9	0.0	3.7

June 7, 1990. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

WORLD MARKETS

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Telecom rise
to £332m on
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DON TRADED OPTION

Symbol	Price	Change
ASX 200	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 50	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 100	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 150	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 200	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 250	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 300	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 350	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 400	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 450	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 500	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 550	1,234.56	+12.34
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ASX 650	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 700	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 750	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 800	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 850	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 900	1,234.56	+12.34
ASX 950	1,234.56	+12.34
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Dangers of rescue operation after failure of US thrifts

Mr Bill Seidman, the retiring head of the US Resolution Trust Corporation, has taken a gamble on the \$20 billion in commercial real estate that he must sell.

As chairman of the organization established last year to wind up failed savings and loans institutions, or thrifts, he has cut the appraised market value of this real estate by 15 per cent in the hope of attracting buyers.

However, assuming sales go through at 25 per cent below the value at which the property was valued when taken on by the government, they will further dampen a property market teetering on recession, endanger already weak money-centre bank loan books and, in the process, may help to create a credit crunch that could force a slowing US economy into recession.

Against this, the RTC must offload its assets as soon as possible because it must borrow the bulk of the funds it uses to repay depositors in the failed thrifts, and each month's delay adds \$2 billion to a bail-out programme already estimated at \$500 billion over 30 years.

The balancing act undertaken by Mr Seidman underlines the financial disaster that the US government has created by its mismanagement of the thrift industry, through misguided reliance on deregulation at all costs amid sometimes blatant corruption.

The industry is not totally bankrupt, with two-thirds of the 2,898 institutions in relatively good shape.

The RTC has foreclosed 423 institutions with assets totalling \$220 billion and disposed of 93 this year. However, another 570 thrifts are classified as close to death, with some large institutions included in this figure.

Mr Donald Regan, the former Treasury Secretary, said when signing a deregulation Act for the industry in 1982: "I think we've hit the jackpot."

That comment encapsulates the immensity of the mistakes made in Washington, magnified by individuals who went wild with their new freedom.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Seidman acknowledged the risk he is taking, saying: "The real estate market will be subject to the sale of more property on the market at one time than in any other time in our history." However, he was confident that it could be done without calamity in the economy.

Commercial real estate vacancy levels are now estimated at an average of 20 per cent. Banks have lent at record levels in the worst affected regions, New England, Texas, Florida and California, and are expected to cut back, threatening a credit crunch and a further fall in prices.

By cutting the value of its property in these regions by 15 per cent, the RTC has opened the way for its entire property portfolio to be sold at 25 per cent below the past value. This is because, by law, Mr Seidman cannot sell at 5 per cent below appraised market value in distressed areas, so if you take 15 per cent below the 95 per cent level and then add in the 5 per cent allowance, the RTC property is worth just 75 per cent of the stated value when failed thrifts came under government control.

"The RTC was supposed to last for seven years," Mr Seidman said. "If we get rid of this land by then, it would be a major accomplishment."

The RTC is involving private real estate agents in the regions affected, and has produced computer discs listing its 36,000 properties for sale.

An even harder task is selling the junk bond portfolio of \$3.5 billion that the RTC controls, courtesy of failed thrifts. Mr Seidman said that it involved 3,000 issues, only 30 of which have any market value in the relatively illiquid junk bond market.

The US government inherited the property and bonds



Hard task: Seidman, clearing up the thrifts fiasco

because it guarantees bank and thrift deposits to protect individual investors. It must pay the difference between assets and liabilities of institutions that failed, which at the last count totalled \$155 billion.

The problem will, at the very least, soak up all the money that the government hoped to save through defence cuts, and, at worst, could push the US economy into recession at a time when, with an exploding federal deficit, the US can least afford it.

Mr Seidman said: "The thrift industry had a basic weakness, it borrowed short term and lent long. This was OK when you could control

interest rates, but in the late 1970s inflation increased at such a rate this was impossible.

"The government's solution was to allow the thrifts to go into other businesses and paper over the worsening position by a bunch of accounting rules which didn't represent the true picture."

"With the new rules, two-thirds of the industry lived like they used to and one-third went for high risk."

The most notable example of the latter was Lincoln Savings and Loan, run by Mr Charles Keating, who contributed heavily to the political campaigns of some senior politicians, apparently to help to prevent any regulatory crack-

downs on the industry. In four years, Lincoln grew from assets of \$1 billion to \$4 billion. Mr Seidman says it now has a shortfall of \$2 billion.

Mr Seidman said: "With no controls, the thrift industry had to charge high rates to attract funds (some as high as 13 per cent) and this meant it had to take further risks to make money which explained why they went for junk bonds and real estate in markets where prices had already risen too quickly."

Both sides of politics had blocked preventive action that could have kept bail-out costs to about a twentieth of the present estimate.

"The Democrats said the thrift industry was the bastion of home loans to little America and should be helped, and the Republicans believed government should not interfere with business," Mr Seidman said.

"Both sides failed to see if you have deposit insurance you also need standards on how the money is used."

The US Treasury is working on an overhaul of this deposit system which presently guarantees \$945 billion in thrift deposits and \$2,500 billion in bank deposits.

Mr Seidman believes a radical overhaul and perhaps abolition is long overdue.

He blames the thrift industry for fuelling over-capacity in US real estate and for the rapid expansion of the junk bond market.

While noting the dangers his actions may have on the US banking sector, Mr Seidman said: "Clearly our real estate sales could hurt the market but it is hard to predict by how much because we don't know how quickly we can sell the land."

But he noted: "Ultimately, it is the role of the Federal Reserve to keep the banking industry alive by the way it sets monetary policy."

John Durie

BUSINESS LETTERS

'Imperfect' election of NEDs

From Mr Noel Falconer

Sir, I must dispute Mr Mottram's comment (Business letter, May 30) that non-executive directors are "an unnecessary encumbrance". The wrong people are elected, by imperfect methods, but their role is real and their remuneration irrelevant.

Shareholders have the right and duty to guide the companies they own. How else can they honour this than by appointing NEDs of like mind?

True, this is rarely possible. The mechanics of nominating a director make it difficult for an alternative to the board's

candidate to stand, and then he is defeated by proxies, and by institutional blocks voted by managers and not by the ultimate owners of these shares. What is needed, though, is the correction of these flaws — perhaps some NEDs should be elected on a one-shareholder/one-vote franchise? — rather than the elimination of a potentially important restraint upon the executive oligarchies which run our economy.

Yours faithfully,
NOEL FALCONER,
223 Bramhall Moor Lane,
Hazel Grove,
Stockport.

Bureaucratic delusions

From Mr R. N. G. Blower

Sir, I find it most informative that those who are keenest on an independent central bank, either in the UK or in Europe, are those who have power but no responsibility — the bureaucrats both here and in Brussels.

It is always tempting as a bureaucrat to imagine how perfect the world would be without outside interference. But we must not let ourselves be deluded by their logic.

Things do not go better if elected representatives are kept out of the truly important aspects of government like fighting inflation. Economic policy, in the absence of perfect information, inevitably involves judgement.

Those who are best motivated to make such judgements are those who risk losing their jobs — and not just their performance bonuses — if they are wrong. The people in Eastern Europe have found this out the hard way. It is paradoxical against this background that the argument for bureaucratic-run central banks has gained intellectual respectability in the EEC, whilst everywhere else it has been lost.

Yours faithfully,
R. N. G. BLOWER
66 Galba Court,
Augustus Close,
Brentford Dock,
Middlesex.

Pensions question

From Mr F. M. F. Walker
Sir, Of the thousand economists polled by Messrs. Ricketts and Shoemith, 640 do not see inflation as the major threat.

Could we please be told how many of those have inflation-proof pensions?
Yours faithfully,
F. M. F. WALKER
7 Cassiobury Park Avenue,
Watford,
Hertfordshire,
June 4.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
AUT 402	CU 645	Lloyds 5,815	Seas 4,629
Abbey 4,253	Cookson 322	Lloyds Abt 1,311	Seagel 441
Adia-Lyon 2,885	Courtside 335	Lovro 8,545	Shell 2,141
Amrad 2,054	Deletry 1,100	Lucas 945	Siebs 681
ASDA 8,845	Dixons 2,734	Manpower 689	Slough 780
ASDA 234	EGG 1,794	M&S 3,841	South & N 1,181
Avon 3,387	Emmigan 454	Minicam 135	St James 907
BAA 1,025	Ferranti 532	M&P Group 884	Do Uts 9
BEY 2,040	Fisons 4,058	Mecca 3,510	Smith WH 184
BIC 1,659	Glen 2,309	MSPD 704	Smith Ind 454
BIR 6,044	Gen Acc 105	Midland 1,825	STC 8,863
Birds 3,715	GEC 7,182	Net West 4,054	Stan Chart 785
Bone 551	Glanco 5,355	Next 3,050	Stevens 1,053
Bosch 3,015	Globe Int 2,415	Nen Food 1,501	Sun Life 54
Borfield Int 1,474	Glynwed 2,415	Pharm 294	Sun Life 54
BICC 1,891	Graham 322	Philips 1,185	Ti Group 794
Blue Circle 2,122	Graham 322	Pilkington 8,158	Tate & Lyle 589
BSC 1,258	GLS A 151	Polypack 6,558	Tesco 1,533
Broom 6,795	GN 1,610	Prudential 2,025	Tate & Lyle 589
BSI 882	GN 1,610	Rural 3,182	TSB 5,304
BT 1,284	Goldcrest 4,384	Recall 107	Unilever 1,284
BT Airways 13,089	Hamm A 429	Rix Hovis 883	Unilever 1,284
BT Comm 1/8	Hanson 6,014	Rix 1,284	Unilever 1,284
BT Gas 10,241	Do W 4,284	RAC 103	Unilever 1,284
BT Land 1,472	H & C 782	Radcliff 1,445	Unilever 1,284
BT Petrol 6,204	Hawker 253	Racal 1,445	Unilever 1,284
BT Retail 15,287	Hawdon 989	Reckitt 355	Unilever 1,284
BT Telecom 12,000	ICI 1,724	RIC 1,284	Unilever 1,284
Burdish 149	Inchcape 331	Royce 8,677	Unilever 1,284
Burns 5,744	Kingfisher 1,728	Rothmans 514	Unilever 1,284
CAW 3,671	Leino 259	Royal Bank 2,544	Unilever 1,284
Cashbury 1,289	Ladbrokes 2,078	Royal Ind 615	Unilever 1,284
Color 486	Land Sec 1,700	Saturn 1,225	Unilever 1,284
Comet 444	Laurie 83	Schroder 1,343	Unilever 1,284
Coats 1,405	LCC 984	Scott & N 751	Unilever 1,284

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

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June 6	June 15	September 6	September 17

Call options were taken out on 7/8/90 Avon Petroleum, Bala Res, Briston, Tynbar Res, Suez & Suez 5.0% Conv Prd, Central & Shearwood, Isopod, Prosser, Yale & Vale.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Court's power to extend time for arbitration

had to be construed as limited to providing a remedy for that mischief.

His Lordship said that the argument that the conditions produced a special situation, which had not been taken into consideration in contemplation of a statute had first been enacted, there could be no *a priori* assumption that the enactment was not intended to cover the circumstances. If the language was wide enough to extend to those circumstances, there was no reason why it should not apply.

In any event, Sporex's argument adopted a narrow view of the mischief that could be identified as the target of section 166 of the 1934 Act.

That mischief had simply been the undue or unreasonable

hardship suffered by a party to an arbitral agreement. It is not enough that a party is obliged to pursue a contractual claim by the operation of a restrictive contractual time limit in circumstances in which he ought reasonably to be excused for his failure to comply with it.

Although such hardship was obviously more likely to arise when the arbitrator had no discretion to extend time, it might arise even though he had such a discretion.

That might be either because the discretion was so narrowly expressed that it was ineffective to enable relief from undue delay to be granted, or because the arbitrator had failed, in the circumstances of a particular case, to exercise his discretion to grant relief from undue

In either of those situations, the intention expressed by the language of section 27 was that it was for the High Court to consider whether in the circumstances undue hardship would be caused if the claimant were defeated by the time bar and

Taxpayer company in joint venture retains group relief

His Lordship recognized that the practical consequence of that conclusion involved the somewhat cumbersome prac-

On discretion, the principles to be applied had been summarized by Lord Justice Brandon in *Libra Shipping and Trading Corporation Ltd v Northern Sales Ltd (The Aspen Trader)* ([1981] 1 Lloyd's Rep 273, 279).

of reasons, the fact that they had decided against Comdel was not a circumstance to which any weight could properly be attached. His Lordship could find no fault with the Court of Appeal's exercise of discretion.

Lord Emslie, Lord Brandon, Lord Hoff and Lord Jauncey agreed.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance, Norton Rose.

st binding

the date of certification of bankruptcy.

In his Lordship's judgement, the parties had negotiated the settlement of the action at a time when their legal advisers thought it necessary that it should be agreed by the parties.

The date of the taxing master's certificate, based on the comment in Note 62/35/8 of the *Supreme Court Practice 1988*.

It was open to the plaintiff to have disregarded that comment and such a claim would have been successful in the House of Lords.

The action was settled on an erroneous view of the law and the defendants made their payment in full and final settlement.

In his Lordship's judgment, it would be inequitable to allow the plaintiff to re-open the

matter now and he had no doubt that if the boot had been on the other foot and the defendants had erroneously overpaid, they could not have recovered that overpayment.

Solicitors: Morton Pugh; Allen & Overy.

redirection

statement of claim, or any indication of how the claim was to be framed, the failure to exhibit accounts and the general air of haste and lack of detailed preparation to which the judge referred in his judgment, the failure to disclose a substantial and important fact was sufficient to support the judge's decision that leave should not have been granted in the first place.

That part of the judge's decision should be upheld.

As a matter of discretion and

procedure in the circumstances and bearing in mind difficulties arising out of the plaintiffs' failure to comply properly with the rules in serving Mr Henry, his Lordship would not uphold the judge's order in setting aside the writ as against Mr Henry or Mr Pedersen but would allow the writ in its unamended form to stand and would merely set aside the service of the writ on Mr Pedersen. The amendment of the writ and its service on Mr Henry in its amended form should stand.

To the extent of that variation in the judge's order, the appeal would be allowed.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Beldam agreed.

Solicitors: Alexander Tatham, Manchester; Turner-Kenneth Brown; Harrison Tankard &

Massachusetts, Bradford.

1

The Times sets the scene for the 1990 World Cup which begins today with Argentina, the holders, playing against Cameroon.

Maradona rings up the curtain in Milan

From DAVID MILLER
MILAN

TWO teams in a state of flux, Argentina and Cameroon, this afternoon open the fourteenth World Cup here. Valery Nepomniashchy, Cameroon's Soviet team manager, has to decide whether to gamble on recalling one of the oldest players in the history of the World Cup finals, the 38-year-old centre forward, Roger Milla.

Goalkeepers, of course, such as Jennings, Zoff and Shilton have been or are older. Stanley Matthews was 39 when, recalled yet again by the selectors on public demand and form, he played outstandingly in the quarter-final against Uruguay in 1954. The case of Milla is equally unusual.

First coming to prominence



In 1975, he formally played his last international match in December 1987, before completing his retirement in the French League that season. However, he was persuaded to return for the 1988 African championship, and was a lively leader in attack of the team that took the cup, beating Nigeria in the finals in front of a lukewarm Arab audience in Casablanca clearly showing their disapproval of

two black finalists.

Milla again retired, and was now playing what might be termed non-League football in the Ile de Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Suddenly, six weeks ago, he announced that he wished once more, Sinatra-style, to make another comeback. He had to be accompanied by the Sports Minister to the squad's training camp in Yugoslavia, in order that the Minister might explain his re-introduction to younger players who would otherwise possibly have mistreated him.

Antoine Bell, the Bordeaux goalkeeper who was runner-up as French footballer of the year, called Milla's action "irresponsible". Milla's response to that is that he is like a military reservist, "always ready to be called to my country's colours". His wilful eccentricities are such that he

is nicknamed "Gaddafi" by his colleagues.

Nepomniashchy is torn between the demands of fanatical supporters at home in Yaounde, supported by a press campaign, and reality: can Milla seriously threaten Argentina's defence. The manager will announce his line-up this morning.

Nepomniashchy's other dilemma is whether to prefer Bell to N'Kono, whose memorable performances in Spain eight years ago helped Cameroon draw all three first round matches (including against Italy) to establish a unique record of being the only World Cup final team never to have lost.

"Trying to keep that record will be tough," Nepomniashchy says, tongue in cheek. He had difficulty keeping his own job after Cameroon's feeble de-

fence of their African title two months ago, losing to Senegal and Zambia. They only marginally recovered the form which had disposed of Tunisia in the qualifying double header when they recently beat Kenya in a warm-up match.

There will be no special provisions for marking Maradona, Nepomniashchy says. "We have no complex about him, and are thrilled to be playing against him. We have prepared a tactical system, but it is not dependent on man-for-man marking. We are not playing against just Maradona, but a team."

Carlos Vilardo is not so sure. The manager of the winning team in Mexico City four years ago has been quoted as saying his side would consist of "Maradona and 10 others". Yesterday he announced a team that, surpris-

ingly, did not include Caniggia, the forward from Atalanta, who had been expected to take some of the attention and pressure away from Maradona.

If Vilardo's team is genuinely the one he intends to field - and the fact is that he has, like George Best in his time, been persistently and disgracefully fouled so many times without penalty by referees, that it is no surprise he responds with other forms of cheating, emotional and physical. Let us be in no doubt that the game has corrupted him more than vice-versa: he is indisputably the greatest player we have today.

Now he has the immense task of carrying an Argentine team that has fallen from its peaks of 1978 and 1986 but which I believe is capable, with him in form, of reaching the semi-finals. Since victory-

pulling and sent off for the so-called professional foul of blatantly tripping an attacker who is bearing down on goal.

I am no defender of Maradona's behaviour, social or sporting, on and off the field. Yet the fact is that he has, like George Best in his time, been persistently and disgracefully fouled so many times without penalty by referees, that it is no surprise he responds with other forms of cheating, emotional and physical. Let us be in no doubt that the game has corrupted him more than vice-versa: he is indisputably the greatest player we have today.

Now he has the immense task of carrying an Argentine team that has fallen from its peaks of 1978 and 1986 but which I believe is capable, with him in form, of reaching the semi-finals. Since victory-

ous in Mexico in 1986, Argentina lost 14 matches out of 35 up to the end of last year, and scored only five goals in their last 11 matches.

They have not been improving this year, but with 14 of the squad of 22 being with European clubs, they have a blend of Latin technique and European experience which can still take them a long way.

Nepomniashchy claims the same cosmopolitan quality for his team. "The game of the Germans, the Russians and the English is rational," he said. "Our way is more improvisation, we are close to French football. We want to be surprised to see what we promise to do in an intriguing opening to the world's second biggest sporting event."

ARGENTINA TEAM: 1. N. Pumpido; 19. O. Ruggeri; 20. J. Simon; 11. N. Fabrizio; 13. N. Lorenzi; 2. S. Batistuta; 3. J. Burdisso; 4. J. Batistuta; 17. R. Serna; 5. A. Batistuta; 10. D. Maradona.

Captain courageous wins the thanks of England's manager

From STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, CAGLIARI

BRYAN Robson, the figurehead of England's World Cup challenge, has received a thousand bouquets during his career, but they were overshadowed by the prolonged and colourful appraisal offered yesterday by the national manager, Bobby Robson.

In the opinion of Bobby Robson, he is "as good a player as we've ever produced".

On the eve of the tournament, Bobby Robson might have been tempted to elevate the stature of his most influential individual to provide him with a timely and diplomatic boost. But there could be no doubting the earnest sincerity of his words or the gratitude which implicitly they carried.

One statistic illustrates the importance of a captain "who has been everything" during Bobby Robson's reign. Bryan Robson has featured in 62 of the 88 internationals so far. In his presence, England have lost only 10. In his more limited absence, they have been beaten seven times.

"The great sadness is that Bryan has missed so many games under me," Bobby Robson said. "He should by now have a record number of caps." But for injury, he would be winning his 112th when he leads England out against the Republic of Ireland here on Monday evening.

"I hope the next national manager isn't without his best player for more than a quarter of his matches. We've missed Bryan's tenacious attitude. He's a winner and he never pulls out of tackles," Bobby Charlton would echo those sentiments. He regards Manchester United's captain as "the bravest player I've ever seen".

But Bryan Robson epitomises more than fearlessness. Bobby Robson recalled three of his passes, each struck

with the majestic precision of Hoddle, which released in turn Lineker, Stevens and Waddle in Tunisia on Saturday. "He opens the game, he performs non-stop and, above all, he scores vital goals."

His ratio of more than one goal in every fourth international is remarkably high for a midfielder player, and especially in the modern age. Using his instinctive ability to time his runs into the penalty area, he often claims the decisive strike. Six of his 26 goals have been winners for England.

"He's so good that I was prepared to gamble with him in the 1986 World Cup, even though there was a big question mark against him," Bobby Robson said. "He was the only player in the country I would have risked." Ultimately, it failed and England's fortunes rose ironically once he had dislocated his shoulder.

"If I hadn't taken him to Mexico and we had done badly there, everyone would have asked me why I left him behind. Anyway, it is a terrific bonus having him here now and so fit. The months he was out earlier this year might even be to our advantage."

Significantly, he suggested that Beardsley, who was also out for several weeks towards the end of the season, is also fresher than he might have been. He is almost certain to be in a line-up which, apart from Gascoigne, includes all of the most experienced members of the squad.

As doubts about the principal goalkeeper receded, so those about Shilton's understudy increased. Woods injured his back and was excused from training. So was Wright, whose neck is still rickety, but Parker, another

possible central defensive reserve, was able to take a full part in the private session.

The gates were locked but, whenever they were opened to allow official vehicles to enter, Bobby Robson's intentions were momentarily revealed. He will not confirm the evidence until his team sheet must officially be handed in on Monday, but he did admit that "my mind is already made up".

If expectations are realised, he has decided to swim against the main tide and attack the Irish with two wingers. "The first phase, when everyone is playing for points and placings, will probably be full of careful and cagey football," he said. "In the second round, the tournament will take off."

To reach the knockout stage, he has set a minimum target of three points, which was sufficient four years ago. Then, by the time England entered the last 16 Bryan Robson was no longer available. Now the manager foresees him making a contribution which could end in appropriate glory.

"He is superb in defence, in midfield and in attack. He's as good a player as we've ever produced. He's undoubtedly world class and, to go with that, he's a good type too. All of the other players respect and admire him and his ability. He is a great captain."

"I cannot believe that he's never been voted the footballer of the year. For all that he has done for his club and his country, giving everything in every match that he has played, he richly deserves to lift up the World Cup next month in Rome."

Football's most valuable property



A marked man: Maradona was given his own police escort for a short walk to the team hotel in Milan yesterday

Roxburgh to Leighton's defence

From ROODY FORSYTH
GENOA

IT HAS often seemed that the easiest way to perplex anyone in charge of a Scotland side is to question the ability of the goalkeepers available to him and Andy Roxburgh, the Scottish coach, has not proved to be exceptional in this respect, as he demonstrated yesterday when he expressed indignation about the treatment of Jim Leighton on a midweek sports programme broadcast on ITV.

Roxburgh participated in a five discussion with the England manager, Bobby Robson, but although he could not see what was being screened in Britain he realised from hearing snippets of commentary in his earpiece that a montage of goals conceded by Leighton this season was being shown.

"It's so predictable that it

shouldn't bother us," Roxburgh said at the Scottish headquarters in Rapallo, near Genoa yesterday. "But what does become very annoying is the fact that the coverage is so unbalanced. Now Jim Leighton has his bad games like everybody else but you would do well to count on the fingers of one hand the number of poor matches he has played for Scotland. Who shows all that saves he has made that have kept us in games or competitions?"

All of which was prompted by an earlier statement by the Scottish coach that he has already decided which players he will field against Costa Rica in the Scots' opening match on Monday afternoon and he further insisted that he had experienced no difficulty in selecting his goalkeeper for that game.

Although he declined to be drawn into revealing whether

the choice has fallen upon Leighton or Andy Gorman, of Hibernian, Roxburgh appeared to offer a significant clue when he said: "When Jim joined us to travel to Malta after he had been dropped by Manchester United for the FA Cup final reply with Crystal Palace, it was putting it mildly to say that he was down."

"That is why, when we decided to play him and Andy Gorman for one half each against Malta, we thought it best that Jim should play the second half. If he had played him in the first half and he had made a mistake, people would say that we had dropped him at half-time. The goalkeepers knew they would both take part."

"We want to avoid that. Now Jim's morale is back to normal again and I must say that our goalkeepers, including Bryan Gunn, work very well together. They are competitive

but they support each other."

Roxburgh remains uncertain about the Scottish attack because neither of his first-choice forward players is fully fit. The good news is that Maurice Johnston is ahead of schedule in recovering from his stomach injury and he has begun to train again. "If you had asked me last weekend I would have said he had no chance of playing in the World Cup. Now there's a good chance he will make it against Costa Rica," Roxburgh said.

However, there is a doubt about his Rangers club-colleague, Ally McCoist, the player who surprised Roxburgh on Wednesday by revealing that he had concealed a hamstring problem for 10 days before flying out to Genoa. McCoist's injury is worrying but Roxburgh said: "One thing in Ally's favour is that he heals even faster than Maurice Johnston."

Players stage silent protest

From STUART JONES

THE relationship between the England squad and the media has sunk into an uneasy silence. Bobby Robson is prepared to give interviews, as officially required, but most of his players are becoming increasingly reluctant to talk to reporters and some are flatly refusing to do so.

They claim that they have been so frequently either misquoted or criticised savagely that they prefer no longer to co-operate with people they now regard as foes. Sadly, long gone are the good, old days when the two camps mixed amicably and freely as friends.

They are now divided by a wall of suspicion and, in some cases, contempt. The barrier is never more evident than during foreign tournaments and especially the finals of the World Cup, which are invariably preceded by several weeks of growing anxiety. The air of tension hangs over both sides.

The players are inevitably nervous, no matter how relaxed they may appear to be, and journalists are under particular pressure to produce lively daily reports. For the sake of sensationalism, a slight strain can be converted into a heavy pull, a small grudge into a bloody wound.

A player's answer to a question can be twisted out of shape and lifted out of the original context. The alterations, it should be added, are not always made by the journalist who is supposedly credited for them. Inexorably, changes have been carried out to fit predetermined headlines.

Bobby Robson made an impassioned and private plea at the start of the campaign in an attempt to clear the air of the atmosphere. Justifiably, he was responding to an irresponsible report, which claimed erroneously that he had been jeered by the local crowd when he took

part in Cagliari's promotion celebrations. His appeal has had no noticeable effect. Stories have continued to be exaggerated to such an extent that they no longer represent reality and, worst of all, a picture in one of last Sunday's newspapers purported to show the England manager leering at the wife of one of his players.

No one can blame either Robson or his players for deeply mistrusting the media when they see such damning evidence. Unfortunately they regard everyone as being responsible. Only a few are deliberately sinister and provocative.

Players cannot afford to hold conversations only with those they consider trustworthy. They are aware that their words may be passed on, perhaps in an exaggerated form, to the media. With reason, they fear the outcome of the game of Chinese whispers.

city administrators who used it as a pretext to obtain funds for long-delayed urban renewal projects, to hotel and resort owners who prepared for the onslaught of tourists, and to football supporters who dreamed of an Italian victory, the World Cup has come very close to representing all things to all people.

Despite the elaborate preparations and the packed calendar of complementary events which the 12 World Cup cities have planned for the month-long tournament, very little of the shower of gold which was forecast for Italy during the World Cup is likely to arrive.

The host country will reap few short-term financial benefits from the estimated £4,750 million it spent preparing for the tournament. The hoped-for invasion of supporters and tourists has not materialised. Most estimates in-

dicate that the number of supporters attending the World Cup is not likely to exceed 600,000.

What's more, normal tourist traffic has also visibly diminished. Instead of drawing them to Italy, the World Cup seems to be driving both seasonal holiday-makers and first-time visitors elsewhere.

Mario Lippi, the president of the Italian Association of Tourism, said: "On the contrary, the usual summer-time tourists are staying away this year, because they've heard Italy will be crowded, or because it will be chaotic, or because of fears of violence."

Unlike hotel and tour operators, the 40 Italian companies which purchased the right to market their products with the official Italia '90 CIAO mascot, have recovered their money with interest. The spindly mascot has been used to boost sales

in everything from toothpaste and bicycles to bank accounts.

For many Italians, the World Cup has meant four years of potholes, scaffolding, and seemingly endless construction, which has made an already chaotic city like Rome almost uninhabitable. A recent survey revealed that one Italian in five is against the tournament.

Alternatively, for every Italian who curses the World Cup, there are four who favour it. Supporters in Rome slept out on the pavement in front of the Banca Nazionale di Lavoro last Friday night, some waiting up to 25 hours for the remaining 20,000 tickets to the final to go on sale.

And then there is the Italian team, which is not so much expected, as required, to excel. The present team contains only five members of the side which their former coach, Enzo

the selection of his squad, which has an average age of 28 years and five months, the highest in the finals.

The decision to include four extra forwards but only two reserves in midfield and one at full back could rebound upon him. The omission of the two highly-promising Oldham Athletic players, Milligan and Irwin, was particularly difficult to comprehend.

The Irish, who will leave here for Italy today, believe that unlike the Scots, who were content to return to Britain from Malta last week after a few days of mixed weather, they have undergone a proper period of acclimatisation. "Now the players can change the boredom of this place for the boredom of the next one," Charlton said.

With Italy's unprecedented sweep in European cup competitions - the victories of AC Milan, Sampdoria and Juventus have bloated sentiments of national football supremacy - it would be nothing short of a nationwide disaster should Italy make a poor showing. Italians have grown resigned to living with inefficiency, delays, corruption and chaos in their daily lives. But football is quite another matter.

WORLD CUP NOTEBOOK

The pasta masters prepare

THE recipes for World Cup success, inevitably, vary from country to country, but it is no surprise to find that Italy, the host country, will fuel their efforts with spaghetti.

The Italian team doctor, Antonio Vecchiet, is stuffing his charges with mounds of carbohydrates and has chopped their meat ration and banned butter. "The Mediterranean diet is just right - it's important not to tire out the digestive system," he said.

Camomile tea is the other staple for the Italians, who kick-off their campaign against Austria in Rome tomorrow. Its soporific qualities are being used to drug the players who cannot sleep because of growing nerves. If past opening matches are any guide, Vecchiet might well be right in watching the Argentina v Cameroon game on the television tonight as the perfect means of inducing deep slumber in the Italian camp on big-match eve.

The South Koreans are being fed by the Korean community of Milan on imchi, a traditional dish of pickled cabbage in hot pepper and garlic sauce. So, watch out Belgium, Uruguay and Spain.

Secret service

ARMED police will guard the 26 referees, who will be quartered at secret locations. "You never know if some madman is going to come and try to take revenge," a spokesman for FIFA, the game's governing body, said.

Liverpool echo

THE words of the late Bill Shankly have found an echo in the words of a new breed of footballers. In the form of rivalry have surfaced, with flag-waving football supporters noisily parading their loyalties. Nabil Fakhani, a supermarket manager in West London, said: "A great British football manager once said, 'People who say football is a matter of life and death are fools. It is much more serious than that.' In Lebanon, his words could never be more accurate. For many Lebanese, the game of football symbolises life, in its thrills and agonies."

A kind of hush

A DEATHLY hush will fall at midnight on the streets of the north Italian city of Bolzano, which has imposed a curfew on public celebrations, or indeed, lamentations, provoked by the World Cup. The police have promised to break up "with particular severity" the familiar parades of cars and fine pedestrians persisting in revelry.

Flight of fancy

THERE will be no escape from football even in the skies above Italy. The national airline, Alitalia, has clinched a deal with Italian television to show films of matches on international flights.

WALTER GAMMIE

FIXTURES

Today
Argentina v Cameroon (Milan, 5.0).

Tomorrow

Group B
Soviet Union v Romania (Bari, 4.0).

Group D
UAE v Colombia (Bologna, 4.0).

Group A
Italy v Austria (Rome, 8.0).

TELEVISION

Today
WORLD CUP, Europe 8.30-9pm, 11-7pm (two times) and 9-11pm: World Cup preview, opening ceremony and Argentina v Cameroon from Milan. ITV 4-7pm: Opening ceremony and Argentina v Cameroon. BBC1 10.20-11.10pm: Highlights of Argentina v Cameroon.

Tomorrow
WORLD CUP, Europe 10.30am-12.30pm (two times) and 9-11pm: World Cup preview, opening ceremony and Argentina v Cameroon from Milan. ITV 7.40-10.05pm: World Cup Italy v Austria from Rome. BBC1 11.20pm-11.55pm: Highlights of Italy v Austria. BBC2 10.55pm-11.05pm: Football: Soviet Union v Romania from Bari.

Stay-away spectators and the television windfall

From KEN SHULMAN
FLORENCE

WITH an estimated overall television audience of 26.5 billion viewers, Italia '90 will eclipse all previous television spectator records. More than 1.1 billion people are expected to watch the final on July 8, nearly twice the audience of 635 million for the 1986 World Cup final in Mexico, and nearly three times the 420 million who turned on their sets to witness the royal wedding in 1981. This, above all else, will be the windfall of Italia '90.

From manufacturers who hoped to use the tournament as a springboard to launch their products on to the international market, to labour unions who tried to turn the World Cup into a lever to prise concessions from management, to regional and

city administrators who used it as a pretext to obtain funds for long-delayed urban renewal projects, to hotel and resort owners who prepared for the onslaught of tourists, and to football supporters who dreamed of an Italian victory, the World Cup has come very close to representing all things to all people.

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the last laugh

[illegible]

underestimated this young Welsh squad. They cannot cope with the superior technique and fitness of the Welsh.

But Snyman is quoted in *The Times of Namibia* as saying that despite their defeat of last Saturday his team will "massa-

cre" Wales in the second international. He said: "We learned something from them and we are going to take sweet revenge on Saturday. We performed weakly in lineouts, in scrums and rucks. We managed to solve our problems and our fans can expect running rugby. Things will be different as we will turn the tables."

Wales have been striving to attain some form of rhythm but have yet to achieve this goalfully. However, the signs are there that they can and the tour

Romania will also benefit later this month from the generosity of rugby supporters in Cumbria who, like Bath, played Steaua Bucharest when they were on tour here last season.

In the wake of last December's revolution, 150 Romanian orphans were brought to the Cokermouth and Asnatria

areas and the funds remaining from that venture will enable Ian Nelson, the president of Cumbria, and a colleague to drive two wagons loaded with essential items to eastern Romania for distribution in orphanages specified by the Romanian Embassy.

Next season the AFA is expected to hold national competitions in more prominent venues, in London or other cities.

At the start of its life, the De Beaumont Centre was the only hall in the world purpose-built for fencing, with an underground wiring system for elec-

Now, however, as maintenance costs have started to drain the AFA's resources, the need for large competitions to be held in bigger centres has become more urgent.

De Burmont was four times British epee champion and an Olympic fencer in 1936. He was a devotee of fencing administration who revived the sport from near-extinction after the war with a national coaching scheme.

LISTER Allan, the Olympic silver medal winner, seemed to back on form again at the IT World Cup at Zurich when he reached his first final since the Seoul Olympic Games and finished sixth overall against some of the world's best (Our Shooting Correspondent writes). Allan's initial 1,167 in the three-positions rifle was not behind the leaders but he dropped back with only 95.6 for his final.

Adrian Breton, of Guernsey,
 a British rapid fire pistol
 record of 587 for the 60 shots,
 had to settle for eighth place,
 with an overall total of 775.

RESULTS: Rapid fire pistol: 1. A Kusmin
 (USSR), 682 (592); 2. V Tobien (USSR),
 659; 3. L Paalnikas (Hungary), 775 (587).
 4th: 8 A Breton, 775 (587), British
 Jontie; J Rottis, 580, M Jay, 573. Free
 (3 x 40): 1. P Kurka (Cz), 1,271.9;
 2. R Debevec (Yug), 1,271.5;
 3. M Sternvass (Nor), 1,266.2;
 6th: 8 A Allan (GB), 1,262.6 (1,167).

BRITAIN'S best gymnasts will demonstrate rising standards in the sport by giving a comprehensive display of their skills at Crystal Palace tomorrow.

More than a hundred performers, including national champions and members of international teams, will execute routines in artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and sports

**CANADIAN
GRAND PRIX
8/9/10 JUNE**
REGULARLY UPDATED
with preview, all practice times
and race reports
from MONTREAL

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anyone to delay things any longer," said David Elsworth.

"The filly is in tremendous shape. I am not a betting man, but I think there's a good chance she will be able to come to take the Burlington Bertie (100-30) if they can get it. The fact that the ground has eased has been the principal reason for our decision."

What a thrilling race is promised for the filly's premier classic. Both in the Groove and Salsabil are exceptionally talented fillies and Kartajana's obvious stamina is also bringing her into the reckoning.

William Hills now have in the Groove as their new favourite. The 10-1 shot broke her maiden in the Groove and Kartajana as their joint favourite at 9-4. Salsabil is generally on offer at 5-2.

John Dunlop's stable was in form when Caron rode Moyock River to a comfortable win in the St. Leger. Dunlop's assistant, towards Mark Campion, the assistant trainer, said:

"Salsabil's very well and we're delighted with the way she's

THE slings and arrows of outrageous fortune overtook Pat Eddery yesterday (Michael Seely writes).

Fresh from his triumphs in the French and English Derbys on Sandringham and Quest for the Irish champion, Eddery was suspended for three days for improper use of the whip on Lyndesley in the Stanley Wootton Handicap.

After a three-colored finish, Eddery forced the Jack Berry-trained three-year-old up to dead-heat with Maison Des Fruits with the third, Night of Stars, in the third.

Eddery's suspension will run from June 16 to 18 inclusive. He misses Timeform Charity Day at York but returns for Royal Ascot.

The stewards found that Eddery had hit Lyndesley at least 15 times. However, it was not possible how willingly his mount had responded to pressure.

Discussing the vexed question of jockeys' use of the whip, Peter Steweney, the senior racing secretary, said: "We entirely accept that Eddery was using his whip rhythmically, but we have a general guideline that we accept that a whip should be called in if it's hit a horse more than 10 times."

Jockeys in the north have been saying recently that the "stewards might as well hang it out to accept there are bound to be some inconsistencies with different panels of stewards," Steweney said. "But the jockeys want it to be done this way and not any hard and fast rules."

Chance for Klute to put the record straight

lion would win her 1-year-old stakes race in 1991. She was the first filly to win the Valldemosa in the Philip Cornes World Speed Challenge.

In his only race to date, 22 months ago, Klute was beaten 25 lengths by So Careful, the subsequent Arty Gold Cup winner, in a Haydock match.

It was at the same Leathershire course two months earlier that Klute had carved a niche in the record books by clocking a world best average speed of

full year to racing, and a full year to reach when sick."

Even now she remains hopeful rather than certain that he is back to his very best. "I don't tell him *no* the way in his work. It would be silly to leave the race on the gallops, wouldn't it?"

Klute's opponent today is Valldemosa, trained like So Careful by Jack Berry. Valldemosa has won only two of

Bruce remains convinced that Klute was a sick horse at the time of his match and regrets having run him when there were signs that he was not well. "The last days of the race he seemed dull in his behaviour, which was not like him at all. Blood tests taken at the time

Goings: good
7.35 (5f) 1. Furejet (M Birch, 5-8 fav);
Kandara (12-1); 3. Miss El Arab (33-1).
min. 23, 141. A Scott. Totals: £1.90; £1.4

[illegible]

DUBLIN: Ireland v Worcestershire (one-day)

RAPID CROQUETLE SECOND SIX CHAMPIONSHIP: Bessing, Dorsetshire; Surrey; Southampton; Hampshire v Middlesex; Lancashire; Gloucestershire v Yorkshire; Cheshire; Derbyshire; Warwickshire v Gloucestershire; Herefordshire v Worcestershire; Somersetshire v Essex; Hertfordshire; York.

OTHER SPORT

SPEEDWAY: Knockout Cup. Second round. The Reg Hackney & Eastbourne (Bennett); Direct Line tournaments (Beckham).

SPORT ON TV

BASBALL: Sportsman 1-3 and 1-1; Highlights of Major League live telecast.

BOXING: Sportsman 3-5 and 11-12 Professional events from the United States.

By ROBERT KIRLEY

THESE days in New York, taking the wrong subway after midnight is almost safe compared to being a major-league manager. The Yankees have dismissed Davey Johnson; this week the Yankees gave Bucky Dent the heave-ho.

The Yankees have the poorest won-lost record (18-30) in the big leagues, but they remain within striking distance of first place in the American League East Division.

In the Big Apple, Dent is to play second fiddle to hated Boston is bad enough, but playing seventh fiddle to the likes of Detroit and Cleveland is downright intolerable. Dent, aged 38, was dismissed on May 19, when the club had lost nine of 10 games.

Ramon Martinez, of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who is an ordinary fit 4in, struck out an extraordinary 13 Atlanta Braves, equalling the club record, in a 6-0 victory. Martinez yielded three hits.

Bob Patterson, aged 31, is a major-league veteran. Having experienced only the briefest of big-league look-ees during the last eight seasons, he is making the most of a chance with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He moved into the starting rotation in mid-May when John Smiley injured a knee and lost his seat on the Chicago Cubs 6-2 this week and improved his record to four wins and one defeat with the National League East leaders.

The batting average of Len

This is a tall tale, but every professional pitcher stands 6 feet, a few deviate from that height by more than one inch. At 6ft 10in, Randy Johnson, of the Seattle Mariners, is the lankiest pitcher in major-league history. He turned in a season of near-perfect game when he beat Detroit, throwing the first complete-game no-hitter in the American League in more than three years.

Denis Tingay's suggestion for a sporting day out

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 the last 18 years, the Enstol
 Pnx has established itself as
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 boating event.

The classes of boat, Formula
 nines, Formula 4 and
 race over a 2.68km dog-leg
 course. The heats and
 spectacular viewing
 Spectacular viewing
 The series consists of all
 take place on Saturday,
 racing at 10.30 and continues until
 6.30.

Johnston, a former American
 will be looking to add to
 his record with two world
 titles, with two world

championships and three wins
 Bristol to his credit is generally
 considered as the favourite.

HOW TO GET THERE: Bristol
 reached by taking Junction 19 off
 the M5 onto the M27, which runs
 directly to the city centre.
 routes to the course on the
 Docks are clearly signposted.
 though there is no parking
 facilities of the course
 various National Car Parks
 located within easy walking
 distance of the Test station.
 and the coach station can
 serve the city Centre. Docks
 standing is free, and seats
 available for £5 on Saturday and
 £3 on other days. Refreshment
 areas are available.

UPJ 6150



France
Groove

ry suspended
whip offence

ice for Klute to
record straight

dent leaves Yanke
fter less than a

In-form Hateel to defy penalty

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

FOLLOWING that easily achieved victory in the London Gold Cup at Newbury less than three weeks ago, Hateel, from Peter Walwyn's in-form Lambourn stable, is napped to win the Northern Dancer Handicap at Epsom today.

In common with three of his six opponents, Hateel must now carry a 3lb penalty for winning since the weights for this valuable race were published early last month. Yet even with that penalty, he is 6lb better in today than he will be in future handicaps.

Like his sire, Kaghaw, who improved with age, Hateel has looked a better horse this year. He began the season by winning comfortably at Haydock. Then he was runner-up to the Rosebery winner Starlet in the City & Suburban Handicap, run on today's

track in April, but not over today's longer distance which will suit Hateel better.

Next time out, Hateel regained the winning form at Newbury where he beat the subsequent Sandown winner First Victory more easily than the official margin of 2½ lengths might indicate.

Even after making every allowance for the fact that this was First Victory's first run of the season, it was still a tidy performance on Hateel's part. Importantly, it produced a form line, using First Victory and Nikatas, which suggests that Hateel should have just sufficient in hand to beat the joint top weight Goldbuster now.

Also, today's race is likely to suit Hateel better than Goldbuster, who was last seen beating Nikatas by four lengths over 1¼ miles at Salisbury.

On the corresponding occasion 12 months ago, local trainer Reg Alchurch added Goldbuster and Hateel to his stable of winners. Today, this pair will be joined in the line-up by stable companion Barish.

On a point of handicapping, Gulf Palace should beat



Peter Walwyn: high hopes for Hateel

trainer Reg Alchurch added Goldbuster and Hateel to his stable of winners. Today, this pair will be joined in the line-up by stable companion Barish.

On a point of handicapping, Gulf Palace should beat

trainer Reg Alchurch added Goldbuster and Hateel to his stable of winners. Today, this pair will be joined in the line-up by stable companion Barish.

Gasid this time because he is moping him on 11lb better terms for a length and half.

Yet Gulf Palace is now only 2lb better off for an identical defeat at Goodwood last month at the hands of Silver Owl.

As for Barish, he was last seen running well over two miles at Kempton. Well that Bean King, the only other runner, was at York on his seasonal debut, I still feel that today's opposition, headed by Hateel and Goldbuster, will be much harder to beat.

As far as the Sun Life of Canada Handicap is concerned, I rather like the look of Lift And Lead's chance now that it is finally being given an opportunity to prove himself over a distance in keeping with his pedigree.

Even over shorter trips he has still run well on most occasions, the most recent being when he finished fourth

in the race won by El Paso at Newmarket.

While on the subject of pedigrees, Spode's Blue, my choice to win the Albert Rose Maiden Fillies Stakes, should appreciate today's trip, having been predictably outpaced over a lesser distance by the useful Local Lass at Leicester earlier this week.

Radden Burn (8.55), who has been entered already for Royal Ascot's Coventry Stakes, is the principal reason for Steve Caughen's presence this evening at Goodwood, where he can also capture the Cowdray Handicap on Take Heart, a previous course and distance winner.

Love's Moon, my selection for the Charlton Hunt Handicap, is running for the first time since he beat the recent French Derby winner Sangreano at Leicester as a two-year-old.

EPSOM

Selections

By Mandarin
2.00 Heard A Whisper.
2.35 Tidemark.
3.05 Lift And Lead.
3.40 HATEEL (nap).
4.10 Spode's Blue.
4.45 Spode's Blue.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.00 The Old Firm.
2.35 Tidemark.
3.05 Boy Emperor.
3.40 Bean King.
4.10 Spode's Blue.
4.45 Spode's Blue.

By Michael Seely
2.35 Tidemark. 3.05 Boy Emperor. 3.40 HATEEL (nap).
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.15 WAAJIB.

Going: good to soft

Draw: 5F-7f, high numbers best; 1m, 110yds, low numbers best

2.00 EPSOM FLEMINGTON MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,651; 6f) (8 runners)

101 (2)	5 BILLY LOMOND 21 (M) (S) R. Hannon 9-0...	Paul Eddery	84
102 (3)	5 HEARD A WHISPER 10 (M) (S) R. Hannon 9-0...	Paul Eddery	84
103 (7)	5 IVAN THE TERRIBLE 21 (M) (S) P. Colles 9-0...	C. B. Smith	85
104 (9)	5 NIGHT DRAGON 21 (M) (S) P. Colles 9-0...	C. B. Smith	85
105 (4)	5 NIGHT DRAGON 21 (M) (S) P. Colles 9-0...	C. B. Smith	85
106 (8)	5 TONAR PROSPECT 20 (M) (S) P. Colles 9-0...	C. B. Smith	85
107 (6)	5 THE OLD FIRM 10 (M) (S) P. Colles 9-0...	C. B. Smith	85
108 (5)	5 THE OLD FIRM 10 (M) (S) P. Colles 9-0...	C. B. Smith	85

BETTING: 5-1 Billy Lomond, 7-2 Night Dragon, 9-2 Heard A Whisper, 5-1 Ivan, 5-1 The Old Firm, 10-11 Ivan The Terrible, 10-11 Night Dragon, 10-11 Night Dragon, 10-11 Night Dragon.

1888: DUNE AND DRIVE 9-0 B. House (9-13 fav) R. Hannon 5 ran

FORM FOCUS HEARD A WHISPER ridden and one placed when about 50 lb on at Salisbury (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 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A victory for Seles in first episode of a teenage serial

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, PARIS

IF THE 62 minutes it took Monica Seles to reach her first grand slam final is an indication, the future of women's tennis is going to be merry, bright and very noisy. Seles beat Jennifer Capriati 6-2, 6-2 on her sixth match point, but the scoreline was not a fair reflection of the tightness of the match nor, it must be said, did the quality of the play live up to expectations. It never had a chance of doing so.

"I didn't play as well as I can and I don't think she did either. It was a difficult match mentally and physically for both of us because so much was expected," Seles admitted.

Inevitably, waiting for the No. 2 seed in the final on Saturday will be Steffi Graf, who took one game less and one minute more than Seles to reach her 13th consecutive grand slam final. The West German continued to belie the common theory that her game is not up to her usual standard by arrogantly dismissing Jana Novotna 6-1, 6-2. Graf has won her last three matches in 66, 64 and 63 minutes, losing five, four and three games.

Novotna's one chance of ending that run came in the positive. But when the one glimmer of hope came on

game point at 2-3 in the second set, the Czechoslovak patted rather than drove a backhand pass and Graf pounced away the volley. "Everyone has been saying that Steffi is not playing, that she's sick. Today she proved she is the No. 1 player in the world," Novotna said.

At 16 years 6 months, Seles is now the youngest finalist in the history of the French Open, a fact lost somewhat in the concentration on the American's youth. But few could predict with any confidence that the freewheeling Capriati will not start another chapter at Wimbledon in a fortnight's time. "Clay is dead," she said. "I'm going to move onto the grass right away." It sounded like a threat.

Capriati should not be too cast down by defeat, not just because she is only 14 and, as Seles acknowledged, there will be plenty of other opportunities, but because her game lacks only experience and variety, both of which will come with time.

As both players play to a frantic rhythm, there was never going to be much time for reflection. The average time for the first eight games was three minutes. By the end

of them, Seles had taken the first set and the baseline was a mass of dainty footprints, the area round the net virgin territory. The first volley by Capriati came after 17 minutes, the first by Seles in the last — and most exciting — game of the match.

If there was a decisive moment amid the whirlwind, it came in the fifth game of the second set. The unseeded American, her temper tested for perhaps the first time in her career by a bad line call in the previous game, had reacted by winning four straight points to level the set at 2-2. In the following game, she saved two break points but, after a rally which increased in pace and pitch from first hit to last, was finally beaten by a delicate cross-court backhand from Seles.

The Yugoslav acknowledged the breakthrough by raising her hand in the air and then won 10 of the next 12 points to take a 5-2 lead. It was the first sign of weakness in the American teenager's indomitable spirit and it did not last long.

Serving for the match after 53 minutes, Seles had to survive the longest game of the match and needed six match points before finally putting paid to the first of many challenges to her command of the nursery.

"Now I know what Steffi Graf must have felt last year when she had to play me in the semi-final. I had chances then, but hadn't been there before so didn't know what to do. Now I have been in those positions before," Seles said.

"But what surprised me was how quick she was and how many balls she got back. It was always a very tight match. I can tell you that at 14 I wasn't as good as she is. There is no question, she will be around for a while."

In other words, like Navratilova and Evert, this rivalry could run and run.

RESULTS: **WOMEN'S SINGLES:** Semi-finals: S Graf (FR) 6-2, 6-2; J Capriati (US) 6-2, 6-2. **WOMEN'S DOUBLES:** Semi-finals: G Novotna (CZ) & P Korda (CZ) 6-3, 6-2; J Capriati (US) & S Graf (FR) 6-3, 6-2. **WOMEN'S SINGLES:** Quarter-finals: S Graf (FR) 6-2, 6-2; J Capriati (US) 6-2, 6-2; J Novotna (CZ) 6-3, 6-2; P Korda (CZ) 6-3, 6-2. **WOMEN'S DOUBLES:** Quarter-finals: G Novotna (CZ) & P Korda (CZ) 6-3, 6-2; J Capriati (US) & S Graf (FR) 6-3, 6-2.

Svensson's chance for the spotlight

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE

JONAS Svensson, the gentle Swede who has forever lived in the shadow of Stefan Edberg, has a rare opportunity to make his own name in the semi-finals of the French Open today. Svensson plays Andre Agassi and, after the latter's controversial comments about the establishment last week, he would certainly endear himself to the authorities at Roland Garros if he could conjure up a victory against the No. 3 seed.

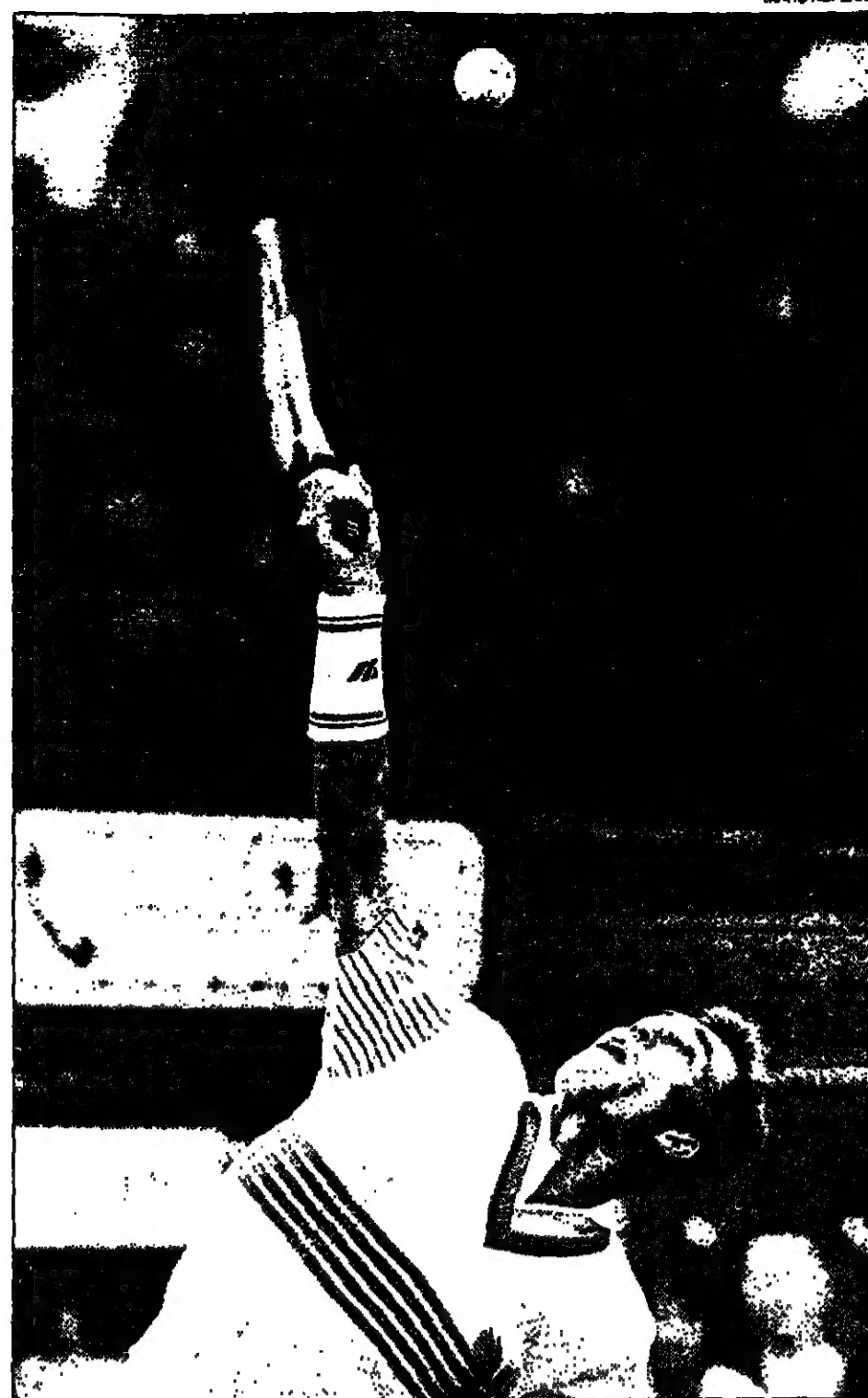
To do so, Svensson will have to cut out the inconsistencies that have stopped him breaking into the world top 10 over the last three years. On his day, Svensson can match Edberg for skill and elegance; he can also surpass him for mid-match melancholia. He beat Ivan Lendl in the quarter-finals of the French Open two years ago, his best performance in a grand slam, but lost to Lendl in the semi-finals.

"I was mentally very tired after the quarter-finals. It is different because I expect myself to win over the top players, so it is no longer such a big thing."

Svensson after his convincing victory over Lendl in the quarter-finals. By reaching the semi-finals, Svensson has also kept up a national tradition. There has been a Swede in the semi-finals of the French every year since 1978.

Agassi, though at 20 the youngest of the semi-finalists, is also the most experienced. This will be his fourth semi-final, his second at the French Open. "This is the only time I have got to the semi-finals and felt like I want more. That's because I'm physically fitter than before," he said.

If Svensson's match with the American promises to be a contrast of style and rhythm, the other semi-final, between the two left-handers, will be in his second. If it goes beyond three sets, you have to beat the Austrian's strength.



No strain a relaxed, confident Lendl serves forcefully during his defeat of Deppe

Late arrival sends Cash out

By BARRY WOOD

PAT Cash, who has courted controversy for much of his career, was defeated from the Direct Line Insurance tournament at Beckenham yesterday after failing to arrive in time for his much-heralded match with Stefan Edberg.

Describing it as "one of the most difficult decisions of my career," Cash said he had no choice but to invoke the rule that a player should be defaulted if he is not ready to play 15 minutes after the match has been called.

On court, meanwhile, Ivan Lendl enjoyed another untroubled victory, defeating Royce Deppe, of South Africa, 6-2, 6-3. The world No. 1 looked supremely confident.

Stefan Edberg eventually managed to get on court and defeated John Fitzgerald 6-2, 6-1.

RESULTS: **WOMEN'S SINGLES:** Stefan Edberg (SWE) 6-2, 6-1; John Fitzgerald (AUS) 6-2, 6-1. **WOMEN'S DOUBLES:** Ivan Lendl (SWE) 6-2, 6-3; Royce Deppe (RSA) 6-2, 6-3. **WOMEN'S SINGLES:** Stefan Edberg (SWE) 6-2, 6-1; John Fitzgerald (AUS) 6-2, 6-1. **WOMEN'S DOUBLES:** Ivan Lendl (SWE) 6-2, 6-3; Royce Deppe (RSA) 6-2, 6-3.

IN BRIEF

Rivals to face US

JO Durie and Monique Javer must forget their differences over the British tennis rankings when they team up for the Federation Cup in Atlanta next month.

Durie threatened never to play for Britain again after being relegated to second in the rankings behind Javer earlier this year. But the British women's tennis association, the governing body of the game in England, has been appointed chairman of the Great Britain Hockey Board. He succeeds Tim Morrison, of Scotland.

Cram returns

Steve Cram, the world mile record holder, will have his first track race of the season in the northern championships at Grimsby. He has entered three events: the 800, 1,500 and 5,000 metres.

Squash task

Emma Donaldson, of Scotland, beat Nicky Roberts, of Alderley Edge, 9-4, 10-8, 9-1 in a regional semi-final of the Dunlop Champion of Champions squash tournament at the Lancashire Club near Manchester and in tonight's final meets Susan O'Brien, of Maple, who beat Alex Bostock, of Bamford, in a four-game semi-final.

Two for Reid

Brian Reid, of Ulster, made it two TT wins in four years when he rode his 600cc FZR Yamaha to an easy victory in yesterday's Supersport 600 150-mile race on the Isle of Man.

Hearing move

The disciplinary hearing to investigate allegations that the snooker player, Alex Higgins, threatened the life of a fellow professional, Dennis Taylor, during the World Cup, and also assaulted an official following his first round defeat in the Embassy World Championship, has been postponed from June 17 until July 1, in Bristol.

Three in row

Ray Reardon was beaten 5-4 in the first round of the Asian Open at Blackpool yesterday by Gino Roggato, of Canada. It was the third first-round match in a row that Reardon lost.

GOLF

Anglo-French honours even

By JOHN HENNESSY

TWO Anglo-French encounters in the Amateur Championship at Muirfield yesterday ended with honours even, which may set an admirable example in a wider sphere in these troubled times.

First, Gary Evans beat Christopher Poitner by two and one and then Olivier Edmond, the French junior champion, beat Kevin Weeks, a former English champion, by the same margin.

Evans and Edmond tied for first place in the English Open stroke-play championship (Brabazon Trophy), which would add a special spice to this afternoon's semi-finals, supposing they were both to advance one stage further.

Weeks was four down with four to play, won the 15th with a good four and the short 16th with a two, but he could not contrive the further birdie he needed at the next.

Evans turned one up, principally because his opponent made a hash of the two long holes. The margin would have

been wider but for Evans' short-game short comings.

A four at the 12th put Evans, clearly the better player on the day, two up, but a monster put at the 15th, all of 50 feet, pegged him back once more. He atoned however for earlier lapses, including a failure from one foot at the 11th, with a huge putt himself from 40 feet, at the 16th.

Poitner, like Weeks before him, could not fashion a birdie at the 16th.

Craig Cassells, a runner-up last year, survived a cliff-hanger against Gavin Lawrie when he had been five up after eight holes. Lawrie whittled away at Cassells' lead, but Poitner won the 15th then allowed Cassells to stand two up with two to play.

Cassells disappointingly lost the 17th to a five and drove into the rough at the last, which might have been crucial, but Lawrie was still more deeply enmeshed and, needing to win the hole, he was shut out by a

lovely little pitch and run to three feet.

This will be Cassells' last appearance. He proposes to turn professional in a couple of months' time. But victory might change that.

RESULTS: Third round: A Sandwell (AUS) 6-2, 6-2; G Evans (AUS) 6-2, 6-2; C Poitner (FR) 6-2, 6-2; K Weeks (AUS) 6-2, 6-2; O Edmond (FR) 6-2, 6-2; G Lawrie (AUS) 6-2, 6-2; C Cassells (AUS) 6-2, 6-2; G Poitner (FR) 6-2, 6-2; K Weeks (AUS) 6-2, 6-2; O Edmond (FR) 6-2, 6-2; G Lawrie (AUS) 6-2, 6-2; C Cassells (AUS) 6-2, 6-2.

Clark moves into lead and nurses his 'grouse'

FROM MEL WEBB, DROTNINGHOLM, SWEDEN

APPROPRIATELY, it was a fair-haired hero who strode down the final fairway to the applause of an equally blond gallery. A beautifully played chip shot from 30 yards set him on his sixth birdie of the day. The crowd were beside themselves.

The only complication from the Swedish point of view was that the flaxen hair belonged to Howard Clark, of Yorkshire and England, who with round of 65, seven in the first round of the Scandinavian Enterprise Open yesterday.

Clark, aged 35, thus took an important step to ending a two-year spell without a win on the European Tour. If he still leads on Sunday, it will give weight to an irritation never far from his mind.

Clark's grouse concerns the US Open, in which eight fellow Europeans will be playing next week and in which he has never been invited to play.

"I've never had an invitation in 16 years on tour," he said. "I've been in the top five in the Order of Merit three times. I've won 12 times, and played in five Ryder Cups. I'd love to play in it just once, but I'm beginning to be resigned to the fact that I won't now."

Clark will be taking next week off and sitting in front of his

television screen "hoping for a European victory". First he has to complete the job in hand.

He had an eagle two at the 26th-yard 1st when he hit a thin shot from just off the green and saw it disappear from 30 yards away. Putts of 25 feet at the third, 18 feet at the fifth and five feet at the eighth took him to the turn in 32, and three more birdies brought him back in 33.

Clark shares the lead with Johan Rystrom while Jan Woomans seems to have done a handy repair job on his ailing putting stroke, holing three 12-footers in a row of 70.

Woomans is non-committal about his prospects next week. But Clark would go if he had to play all four rounds on Sunday.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES (69 and under): H. Clark (AUS), 65; J. Rystrom (SWE), 65; P. Curry (AUS), 65; J. Woomans (AUS), 65; J. Rystrom (SWE), 65; P. Curry (AUS), 65; J. Woomans (AUS), 65.

Stewart takes advantage of mild weather

FROM A CORRESPONDENT CHICAGO

RAY Stewart, of Canada, a reigning non-winner in five seasons on the American Tour, left a world-class field in his wake when he carded a round of 65, seven under par, in the first round of the US Western Open tournament here yesterday.

Stewart, aged 36, was out with the first group of the day and took full advantage of the mild, calm, early morning conditions to gather eight birdies and one bogey on the Butler national course. His 65 was only one stroke shy of the course record of the American, Bob Gilder.

With half the field either back in the clubhouse or on the course, Stewart held a substantial four-stroke lead over the American, John Huston, and Mark McCumber, while Jose Maria Olazabal, of Spain, headed the European contingent at two under par with one hole to play.

Sandy Lyle, who has not made a cut in the US since 1983, revealed glimpses of his true ability when he played 12 holes in even par.

Severiano Ballesteros, the dual Masters champion, struggled to two over par after 14 holes and appeared destined to finish the first round near the rear of the field.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Mounting trouble for London over mole hills

By RICHARD WETHERELL

THE latest series of matches in the National Division Managers Association (NDMA), which saw all the leading sides win, was dominated by the unfortunate events at Cophall Stadium, Barnet, where the London Ravens were forced to play the Birmingham Bulls.

Two weeks ago the Ravens had to switch their home game against Chesterford Cherokees to Chelmsford because of complaints about the poor quality of the pitch. Hoping to clarify the position, David Webb, the Bulls manager, rang the Ravens 10 days before their game. At that stage the pitch was said to be in a satisfactory condition and the game was on. Then it was off, then back on, then off, and two days before the fixture was to take place, on again.

When the Bulls arrived they were told by the referees that because mole holes had been filled in with fine sand the pitch was dangerous and unplayable. The game was awarded to the Bulls by the minimum score possible, 2-0.

While happy with the "result" it had cost the Bulls and their supporters a lot of money to travel to London.

Of the games which did take place there were few surprises apart from the relatively low score, 27-0, in which the Chesterford Cherokees played the Birmingham Bulls.

The Manchester Spartans, who play their city rivals the Allstars this weekend, kept their unbeaten record with a 28-17 victory over Leeds.

Chris Thomas again did sterling work in a losing side with two touchdowns and 170 rushing yards. This took his total for the season to 1,058, the first to rush for more than 1,000 yards.

After losing to last years finalists in successive weeks, the Cougars face another tough game against Leicester Panthers who have a record of 4-1.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS	CRICKET	SQUASH RACKETS	SNOKER
MILAN: Eight women meeting winners: Maria 200m (1 min 50.8 sec), 200m (1 min 50.8 sec), 200m (1 min 50.8 sec), 200m (1 min 50.8 sec), 200m (1 min 50.8 sec), 200m (1 min 50.8 sec), 200m (1 min 50.8 sec), 200m (1 min 50.8 sec).	MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Gloucestershire 248-7 (100-248-7), 200-248-7, 200-248-7, 200-248-7, 200-248-7, 200-248-7, 200-248-7, 200-248-7.	DUNDEE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS: Semi-finals: James McNamee (SWE) 6-2, 6-2; P. Curry (AUS) 6-2, 6-2; J. Woomans (AUS) 6-2, 6-2; J. Rystrom (SWE) 6-2, 6-2.	BLACKPOOL: Snooker: J. O'Brien (IRL) 6-2, 6-2; J. O'Brien (IRL) 6-2, 6-2; J. O'Brien (IRL) 6-2, 6-2; J. O'Brien (IRL) 6-2, 6-2.
BASEBALL	EQUESTRIANISM	FOOTBALL	GLIDING
NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco Giants 3, Cincinnati Reds 2 (11-11-11), 11-11-11, 11-11-11, 11-11-11, 11-11-11, 11-11-11, 11-11-11, 11-11-11.	ARNOVALE: South of England: South of England 1, South of England 1, South of England 1, South of England 1, South of England 1, South of England 1, South of England 1, South of England 1.	INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Belgium 1, Poland 1 (11-11-11), Norway 1, Denmark 2 (11-11-11), Norway 1, Denmark 2 (11-11-11), Norway 1, Denmark 2 (11-11-11), Norway 1, Denmark 2 (11-11-11).	LESZNO: Poland: European championships: Poland 1, Poland 1, Poland 1, Poland 1, Poland 1, Poland 1, Poland 1, Poland 1.
BOXING	BOWLS	YACHTING	
BATTERSEA: Light-heavyweight (Southern): J. Woomans (AUS) 6-2, 6-2; J. Rystrom (SWE) 6-2, 6-2; J. Rystrom (SWE) 6-2, 6-2; J. Rystrom (SWE) 6-2, 6-2.	COUNTY MATCHES: Essex 1, Sussex 1; Essex 1, Sussex 1; Essex 1, Sussex 1; Essex 1, Sussex 1; Essex 1, Sussex 1; Essex 1, Sussex 1; Essex 1, Sussex 1; Essex 1, Sussex 1.	PRINCE OF WALES CHAMPIONSHIP: Fourth round: J. Woomans (AUS) 6-2, 6-2; J. Rystrom (SWE) 6-2, 6-2; J. Rystrom (SWE) 6-2, 6-2; J. Rystrom (SWE) 6-2, 6-2.	

● RACING: 44-45
● CRICKET: 46
● TENNIS: 47

FRIDAY JUNE 8 1990

SPORT

League drop Swindon to third division

By DENNIS SHAW

SWINDON TOWN were last night demoted from the first division to the third division in an unprecedented punishment in the Football League. Swindon had pleaded guilty to 35 of 36 charges of making illegal payments to players over a four-year period.

The League management committee hopes to meet within 48 hours to discuss the implications of the decision. Who will take Swindon's place in the first division: Sheffield Wednesday, who were due to be relegated, or Sunderland, runners-up in the play-off final? And who will make way for Swindon in the third: Bournemouth, due to be relegated, or Tranmere Rovers, beaten in the third division promotion play-off final.

The League management committee announced the sentence after an eight-hour meeting at Villa Park yesterday. The penalty will stun their manager, Osvaldo Ardiles, who led them into the first division place for the first time with their play-off win over Sunderland at Wembley last week, and who had threatened to resign if the club were demoted before leaving for a break in Argentina.

Swindon were also ordered to pay compensation to six clubs deemed to have been affected by the illegal payments.

The League statement said that the 36 charges, with one exception, involved payments in breach of League regulations to eight players dating back to 1985. The charges also referred to payments to a number of unspecified players at the end of 1989. Nine of the

players concerned in the illegal payments are at present with the club.

The League, showing little mercy, said one effect of the payments was to understate the players' earnings; this, in turn, may have led the League appeals committee to award a depressed figure when assessing compensation to be paid if these players were transferred.

It stressed that during this period the club gained promotion from the fourth division to the first. As a result, in addition to being relegated by two divisions, they have to pay compensation (yet to be decided) to clubs from whom they bought players: Bristol Rovers for Tim Parkin, Southampton for John Gittens, Mansfield Town for Colin Calderwood, Sheffield United for

Steve Foley, Derby County for Ross McLaren, and Exeter City for Martin Ling.

Now the appeals committee will meet to assess the further compensation Swindon have to pay to these clubs "in the light of the now known facts relating to each player's true remuneration".

Swindon's directors were severely censured and reminded of their responsibilities as directors of a Football League club. Arising out of the deliberations yesterday, the management committee will set up a further commission to consider charges against a number of present and former directors, officials and players.

Swindon have also been ordered to pay the full costs of the commission, but they have a right of appeal.

Swindon supporters will be stunned by the severity of the verdict and could well face the loss of the manager who took them so briefly to the first division. He was visiting his friends in Argentina while the commission went through its deliberations.

The nearest precedents for the decision were more than 20 years ago, when both Peterborough United and Port Vale were demoted by one division for making illegal payments.

The management committee was represented by Sir John Smith, the former Liverpool chairman, Michael St Clair, of York City, and Arthur Sandford, the League's chief executive.

Swindon's delegation was Gary Herbert, the chairman, Colin Hayward, the vice chairman, and Lionel Smart and Nicholas Arkell,

the directors, Cecil Green, the president, and an auditor.

Herbert, deeply disturbed at the judgment, said: "I would ask our supporters to remain calm and give the club a short time to consider making an appeal. I'm shattered, devastated. I never thought that this would happen."

Alan McLoughlin, who played a key role in Swindon's success last season, was distraught when told of the decision in Malta last night, where he is preparing for the World Cup finals with the Republic of Ireland squad. He was told of the news by his girlfriend and at first did not believe it. "I'm bitterly disappointed," he said. "All I can do now is concentrate on the World Cup."

McLoughlin, along with Fraser Digby, the goalkeeper, and defender David Kerslake are the most likely players to attract the

attention of first division clubs now.

Before the commission sat, Don Rogers, a member of the Swindon team which beat Arsenal in the League Cup final in 1969, presented a 44,000-signature petition on behalf of supporters in an attempt to safeguard Swindon's first division place.

Swindon's plight follows earlier revelations about betting irregularities by Brian Hillier, the former chairman, and Lou Macari, their manager until last year. Hillier and Macari are awaiting trial on charges of tax evasion.

The financial problems behind the scenes at Swindon were initiated by a Sunday newspaper exposure. This led to investigations first by the Football League, then the Inland Revenue and the police.

England find light in the gloom

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (New Zealand won toss): New Zealand have scored 171 for five wickets against England.

THERE are days in this game when the kindest thing a captain can do for his team is to lose the toss. This was one of them.

New Zealand, committed to batting first as the Cornhill series opened, found fickle weather conspiring with the England bowlers to make conditions as unfriendly as possible.

It would be stretching a point to praise the England bowling too highly — far too much was short or wide for that — but on a fragmented day, in variable light and on a pitch freshened more than once by squally showers, the odds were stacked in their favour.

How much damage Richard Hadlee might have caused, in these conditions, hardly bears thinking about. England, spared such an ordeal, themselves made encouraging inroads into New Zealand's prolific batting. In the brightest weather of the day, Martin Crowe showed it was still possible for the quality player to prosper but, shortly before the end of the extra hour, he, too, perished.

In truth, this was a deflating start to the summer's Test cricket. Trent Bridge was substantially less than half full and those who were here, huddled against an autumnal wind, could not find it in them to create any sort of atmosphere. The cricket was suspicious and attritional, as befitted the first sparring between two teams scheduled to see quite enough of each other in the next 18 months, even before yesterday's surprising announcement that England's tour next winter will, after all, be extended beyond four

months by yet another gratuitous three-match one-day series in New Zealand.

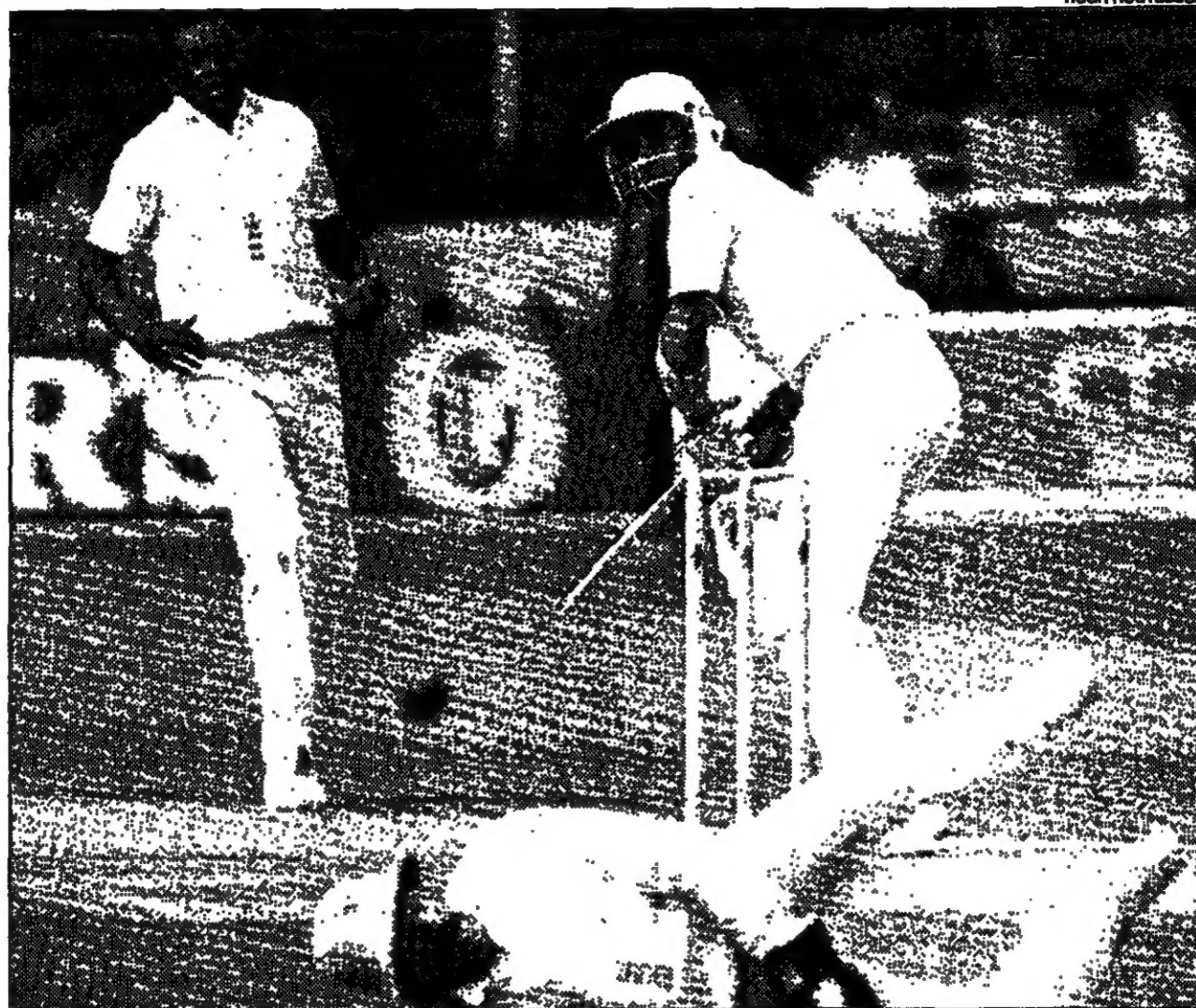
The sparring had actually begun some days ago, with the baffling saga of Chris Lewis's fitness tests. To nobody's surprise, he failed the last of them, which at least had the benefit of ensuring that spin would be represented on both sides.

Small's opening over was startlingly poor. Franklin did not need to play at a single ball and the umpire, Dickie Bird, twice cautioned Small for following through on the pitch. From the other end, Malcolm operated well short of full venom, as if discouraged by the sluggish pitch even before the game had begun.

Bird, bespectacled for the first time in a Test match, was soon casting familiarly anxious glances at the darkening sky and on the stroke of noon came the first of four breaks for rain. Wright's concentration was done no favours and, on the resumption, he pushed diffidently at a legside ball from Small and scooped it to short leg.

The light, in this brief session, was desperate and New Zealand were fortunate to escape further harsh losses. When rain fell again, the ground staff failed to extricate the covers from behind the advertising boards until the pitch had taken quite a dousing. Wright was unamused and said as much to the Test and County Cricket Board representatives on hand.

Within this staccato session Mike Newell appeared as England's substitute fielder — remarkable, in as much that he was 20 not out, for Nottinghamshire against Oxford University, overnight. Few, if any, can have been withdrawn from a first-class match sim-



Out of reach: Jones clips the ball past Russell, the England wicketkeeper, at Trent Bridge yesterday

ply to carry drinks and helmets.

After an early lunch and another, longer interruption, Jones flicked Small down the legside and Russell managed to get only a despairing left hand to it. Franklin, meanwhile, had not scored a run since 11.46, 14 overs ago. This stagnant period was enlivened when DeFreitas bowled one of his best and unluckiest spells for England, regularly moving the ball away from the right-handers without finding the edge. The regulations now confusingly stipulated a late tea. Franklin fell in the last over of the session, bowled off his pads as Malcolm slanted the ball into him.

Crowe elevated the day to a

different plane. His first ball was driven through extra cover for four, rapidly followed by two fours and a six, over mid-wicket, off Hemmings.

Malcolm's second wicket came from a wide long hop which Jones clubbed to cover. Stewart leaped to clutch the catch. Greatbatch has seldom failed in his Test career, hence an average of 61, but he made only one here before playing inside the line against Hemmings. Priest, on his first appearance, survived a difficult last hour, and one last, disruptive shower. By then, there were few left in the ground to see DeFreitas gain belated reward by beating

Crowe's defences.

TRENT BRIDGE SCOREBOARD

New Zealand won toss

NEW ZEALAND First Innings

	Bats	4s	6s	Mins	Runs	Wickets
T J Franklin b Malcolm	33	2	1	177	132	
M J G Wright c Stewart b Small	8	0	0	61	45	
A H Jones c Stewart b Malcolm	39	4	1	142	108	
M D Crowe b DeFreitas	59	1	5	112	94	
Beggs on the back foot	1	0	0	18	8	
M J G Wright not out	23	1	1	71	54	
M C Priest not out	8	0	0	7	9	
Extras (b 1 lb 6 w 1)	8					
Total (For 5 wickets)	171					

11 D S Smith, R J Hemmings, D K Morrison to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-75, 3-110, 4-121, 5-170
BOWLING: Small 22-7-36-1 (5-2-4-0); Jones 19-6-11-1 (7-0-19-0); Malcolm 19-7-48-2 (6-3-0-0); 11-3-37-2; 2-1-4-0; Hemmings 19-6-47-1 (4-3-4-0); DeFreitas 15-3-33-1 (12-2-25-0); 3-1-8-1.

Umpires: H D Bird and J H Hemmings.

A route to spinners' salvation

By JOHN WOODCOCK

AFTER four Test matches in West Indies without a spinner in their side, England yesterday included one. A good thing, too. And yet, had there not been some doubt about Lewis's fitness, one wonders whether Hemmings would be playing. The spinners' lot in cricket today seems to be directly related to the way the law as it concerns persistent short-pitched bowling is given such depressingly short shrift.

I am beginning to think that limited-overs cricket, relatively modern though it is, now has more in common with the game as it is best played than much of what we call first-class cricket. In West Indies, Hemmings was an important member of England's one-day side. Come the Test matches and there

was no place for him. In his last two years with Hampshire, Nigel Cowley, another off-spinner, played in only five championship matches but seldom missed a one-day game. Sussex include two leg spinners in their Sunday league side, but only one, if that, in the championship.

The reason is, of course, that the merchants of fear, they who break fingers and dent helmets, are obliged by the regulations to bowl a fuller length in one-day cricket. If short-pitched fast bowling, whether used defensively or to intimidate, should be allowed to creep into the one-day game — and evidently there were signs of this happening in the one-day international at the Oval — here, too, the spinner would very soon become redundant.

The way to get him back, and of making sure that England never again go through a series without one, is not, to my mind, through longer matches, but by introducing a version of the one-day regulation which strictly limits the use of short-pitched, intimidatory bowling into the first-class game. The modern player and aspiring umpires may be too young to know it, and the West Indians might not approve, but it would make a much better game — and West Indies would still excel because they are so naturally gifted.

Because of the atmosphere and the movement there was in the pitch, the quicker bowlers were well suited yesterday to doing the work. DeFreitas will never be luckier than he was during the

afternoon. As he kept passing the bat outside the off stump — off a full length, he it noted — England could thank their lucky stars that they themselves were not batting against Hadlee.

Watching the "new" Malcolm for the first time I got the impression that he was holding himself in. He ran a very long way at much the same pace, a good example of someone who would have been just as effective if a bowler's run-up were restricted to, say, 25 yards. I know how fast he can bowl, but he beat no one by sheer speed. That much we could tell from the new William Clarke stand. Don't blame us if there are times when we get our lines wrong. No one would choose to report a cricket match from deep mid-wicket.

Backley betters Raty, but falls short of record

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, HELSINKI

STEVE Backley, Britain's World Cup javelin winner, defeated the world champion, Seppo Raty, as Britain beat Finland in an international match in the Olympic stadium here yesterday. However, he was not quite up to the form he showed on Sunday, when he came within 64 centimetres of the world record in the United Kingdom championships.

Backley got the better of Raty with his third-round throw of 84.04 metres, responding to the Finn's

second-round distance of 83.92 metres, which equalled his personal best. Backley's weekend performance demonstrated that the world record of 89.10m, held by Patrik Bodén, of Sweden, is within his range, and it was thought that Raty might push him to it.

After his winning third round throw, Backley fouled on the fourth, passed on the fifth, and reached 80.78 on the last.

This was one of those Frank Dick special productions, which make Vikings out of Sea Scouts. There were 31 newcomers to the senior ship and, by the time Dick had finished his pep talk, they were left

in no doubt as to what was expected. It was emphasised to the first-timers that, with Britain's talents such as they are, future senior vests would be hard to come by.

The 400 metres hurdles was the starting point. Bob Brown, aged 20, from Leeds, showed the way to winning on your senior international debut, recording 51.42sec, and the rest followed.

Jason Livingston — or Baby Ben as Linford Christie calls him because of his Ben Johnson features — is growing up fast. He reached the European final in his senior indoor debut in March and won here on his outdoor debut. His 10.63sec was,

some way off his best after his usual bullet-like start let him down.

Three more debut wins quickly followed: Mary Kitson in the 800 metres (2min 04.16sec), Andrew Tulloch in the 110 metres hurdles (13.84sec), and Courtney Rumbolt in the 200 metres.

The pep talk worked rather too well in the women's sprints. Bev Kinch, not selected for the 100 metres, ran as a guest, and was the first Briton to finish — in 11.73sec, behind Sisko Hanhijoki (11.70sec). As if that was not galling enough for the selectors, Sally-Anne Short ran

as a guest in the 200 metres and beat the three selected British women, winning in 23.41sec.

John Gladwin, hardly a newcomer, must have felt as though he was suffering a back injury in 1987 and in 1988, he has been unable to develop the potential he showed as a 23-year-old when, in 1986, he won the Commonwealth silver medal for 1500m and was among the fastest in the world with 3min 35.26sec. Already this season he has run a mile in 3min 53.6sec, and, although his time yesterday for 1500m, 3min 41.71sec, was ordinary, the win will have done him good.

Milk Race report, page 46

Tour cyclist Kimmage admits taking drugs

By PETER BRYAN

PAUL Kimmage, the former Irish professional cycling team colleague of Stephen Roche, has emerged as one of the first riders to write about the use of drugs in the sport.

In a book called *A Rough Ride*, published yesterday by Stanley Paul (£12.95), Kimmage admits that, after seeing his face against taking drugs, he finally succumbed.

Now, according to the current issue of *Cycling Weekly*, Kimmage has to use the continental expression, "spat in the soup" or broken the law of silence within the peloton. He claims that riders inject themselves with amphetamine while riding between two and 2½ hours before the expected finish of a race.

It could be taken in tablet or

through injection," he is quoted as writing. "Tablet was handy, as it could be carried and taken discreetly; but because it had to pass through the stomach, the effects were slower and not as good. Injection straight into the muscle gave almost instant reaction and was much stronger, but it was awkward as this meant transporting a syringe for most of the race."

Kimmage went on to take amphetamines again but the guilt never left him. The arguments for and against would always rage in his head. Finally, on July 13 during last year's Tour de France, Kimmage quit the sport for good.

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